Mark Lesson 50 (2023)

**JESUS BEFORE PILATE**

(Mark 15:1-20)

**Open it:**

1. When have you ever been influenced by the opinions of a group? What kids do you remember being mocked or put down in elementary school?

**Explore it:**

1. Read verses 1-4. When and what did the Sanhedrin do with Jesus after deciding he was guilty? Why do you think the Sanhedrin handed Jesus over to Pilate? About what did Pilate question Jesus? How did Jesus respond to the Sanhedrin and Pilate? (2) What prompted Pilate to goad Jesus about defending him? (3-4)
2. Read verses 5-8. What amazed Pilate? (5) Who was Barabbas, and what role did he play in this situation? (6-8) What did the crowd ask Pilate to do for them? (8, 13)
3. Read verses 9-15. Why did Pilate try to have Jesus released instead of Barabbas? How? How did the crowd influence Pilate’s decision? What finally happened to Jesus? Where do you often feel pressured by others to go against your Christian beliefs and conscience?
4. Read verses 16-20. Where did the soldiers take Jesus after his trial with Pilate? (16) Who was present there in the palace? What kind of suffering did Jesus undergo even before being crucified? How do you think the soldier’s actions affected Jesus emotionally? What difference does it make that Jesus endured harsh ridicule and pain for our sake?

**Apply it:**

1. What is one step you can take to strengthen your conviction against pressure from coworkers, friends, or family?

What should be your response if you are criticized for your faith this week?