

## HURDLES TO THE CROSS

### Introduction:

- A. Some might think that Jesus's journey to the cross was a s \_\_\_\_\_ of unfortunate events.
  - 1. Jesus repeatedly told His disciples that His d \_\_\_\_\_ was necessary to bring salvation to mankind.
  - 2. Jesus's life was not taken, He had to l \_\_\_\_\_ it down.
- B. There were a series of hurdles that Jesus had to attack.
  - 1. This should remind us of His tremendous l \_\_\_\_\_ for us.
  - 2. This should cause us to give Him our humble d \_\_\_\_\_.

### The first series of hurdles – the \_\_\_\_\_ est of Jesus

*Jesus, knowing all the things that were coming upon Him, went forth...- Jn 18:4*

- A. Jesus went to his b \_\_\_\_\_
  - 1. Judas identified Jesus with a traditional k \_\_\_\_\_ because it was in the dark of the night.
  - 2. The arresting mob then appeared with w \_\_\_\_\_ and lighted torches.

*When Jesus said to them, "I am," they drew back and fell to the ground. – Jn 18:6*

- B. Why did the arresting mob fall to the ground in fear?
  - 1. They DID NOT understand Jesus to simply mean, *I am Jesus the Nazarene* as most translations imply (Most read, "I am he" but there is no "he" in the Greek text)
  - 2. They understood Jesus to mean that He is the I AM of Ex 3:14 (The Hebrew name of the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob).
    - a. It was well-known that Jesus had claimed this name of G \_\_\_\_\_ back in Jn 8 (see verses 24,28,58)
    - b. It was also well-known that no one was able to grab Him
      - 1) They tried to s \_\_\_\_\_ Him for claiming this title, but He escaped (Jn 8:59)
      - 2) They again confronted Him for claiming to be G \_\_\_\_\_ and tried to grab Him, but He eluded their grasp (Jn 10:33).
    - c. The arresting mob was reminded of who they were up against, possibly the very God they claimed to worship!

*Simon Peter therefore having a sword, drew it, and struck the high priest's slave, and cut off his right ear. - Jn 18:10*

- C. Jesus had to do everything to give Himself up.
  - 1. He told Peter to put his sword away because His arrest was necessary to fulfill S\_\_\_\_\_.
  - 2. He h\_\_\_\_\_ the slave's ear and told the arresting mob, *This hour and the power of darkness is yours* (Lk 22:53).

**The second series of hurdles – the \_\_\_\_\_est against Jesus**

- A. The arresting mob tied Jesus up and brought Him to the Jewish ruling council called the Sanhedrin.
  - 1. A council of \_\_\_\_\_ men and the High Priest
  - 2. Given exclusive powers in \_\_\_\_\_ A.D. by the Roman government to rule the Jewish people.
  - 3. Were not allowed to put anyone to d\_\_\_\_\_; those crimes had to go through a Roman court.
- B. The Sanhedrin held a trial at n\_\_\_\_\_ to trump up charges against Jesus.
  - 1. No two witnesses could a\_\_\_\_\_ (they were all falsely accusing Jesus, but Jesus said nothing)
  - 2. Jesus had to give them grounds for a charge when the High Priest asked if He were the Christ.
- C. Jesus's reply alluded to two scriptures
  - 1. *You will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of power* (see Ps 110:1) – they saw the effect of His c\_\_\_\_\_: darkness, earthquake, temple veil ripped apart (Matt 26:45,50,51)
  - 2. *You will see the Son of Man coming with the clouds of heaven* (see Dan 7:13,14 where it uses the above underlined words and refers to His kingdom being established forever). – they saw the effect of His r\_\_\_\_\_: Christianity spread everywhere.

**The third series of hurdles – the \_\_\_\_\_est by Pilate**

- A. The Jewish council had to bring Jesus before Pilate so a Roman official could pass the death sentence upon Jesus.
  - 1. Pilate was on p\_\_\_\_\_ by the Roman government for his actions of causing chaos among the Jews (Josephus Antiq XVIII chapt 3)
    - a. He erected banners in Jerusalem that the Jews very strongly opposed because it had p\_\_\_\_\_ emblems. The Roman government ordered Pilate to remove the banners to keep the peace.

- b. Pilate took money from the t\_\_\_\_\_ treasury to finance an aqueduct. Jews rioted and Pilate ordered soldiers to kill them.
  2. Pilate had to handle this situation with Jesus in a manner that would not cause chaos among the Jews, otherwise he could l\_\_\_\_\_ his governorship.
- B. Pilate protested Jesus's guilt
1. It was a religious matter not a political matter - when he asked Jesus if He was the King of the Jews, Jesus replied that He was but in a s\_\_\_\_\_ sense (*My kingdom is not of this world* – Jn 18:36).
  2. Pilate used the tradition of releasing a prisoner at Passover to secure Jesus's release. He thought he gave the crowd an obvious choice (Jn 18:39,40):
    - a. Barabbas – a v\_\_\_\_\_ trouble maker
    - b. Jesus – a p\_\_\_\_\_ trouble maker
    - c. The crowd chose Barabbas
  3. Pilate tried to satisfy the crowd's anger by having Jesus s\_\_\_\_\_ (a Roman whip with pieces of metal/bone at the end of the lashes). But they chanted all the more – *Crucify Him!* (Jn 19:1-6).
- C. Jesus gave Pilate p\_\_\_\_\_ to have Him crucified (Jn 19:11) – after a few more attempts, Pilate finally hands Jesus over to be crucified.

### **Conclusion:**

- A. Jesus attacked every hurdle to the cross out of l\_\_\_\_\_ for you and me.
  1. He p\_\_\_\_\_ for our sins.
  2. He f\_\_\_\_\_ ALL our sins.
  3. He brought us into a relationship with the one true God.
- B. This should move us to l\_\_\_\_\_ Him back by living His way (see Heb 12:1-3).