

RE: Jesus' Sacrifice

Week 2

WALT: explore who was responsible for Jesus' death.

Who was to blame? Read these arguments to help you to decide!

Judas Iscariot - One of the twelve closest followers of Jesus. **Judas helped the guards to find Jesus so they could arrest him.** Before meeting Jesus, he was part of a group who were fighting to overthrow the Roman Army. Did Judas want to force his 'Messiah' into taking action against the Romans?

The Pharisees - They were the religious authorities in Jerusalem. They were angry with Jesus for chasing the money lenders out of the temple. It showed he had no respect for their authority. They did not believe Jesus was the Messiah - the Son of God. They were insulted that he claimed he could forgive sins because they believed only God had that kind of power. **They arrested Jesus** for crimes against God. They did not have the power to execute criminals because the area was under Roman control. So **they tried to persuade the Romans to give Jesus the death penalty.**

Jesus - The Bible says that Jesus already knew he would be betrayed, arrested and killed in Jerusalem. Yet **he turned over stalls and chased people out of the temple - acting as if he owned the place!** He told people their sins were forgiven. He preached in the temple and declared himself to be the Messiah. He told the Roman Governor that he was the king of the Jews - an act of treason against the Roman Empire. Did Jesus have a death wish? Did his actions leave the authorities with no other choice but to execute him?

Pontius Pilate - **The Roman Governor did everything he could think of to avoid sentencing Jesus to death.** He said no to the Pharisees. He then gave the crowd the choice - certain that they would want a violent murderer executed rather than a peaceful religious teacher. Should Pilate have been more decisive? Ultimately the decision was his to make.

The People of Jerusalem - The crowd were presented with two prisoners - Jesus, and a murderer named Barrabas. **They were asked to decide who would go free and who would be crucified. They chose death for Jesus.** Were the crowd swayed by the powerful and influential Pharisees? Did they really understand what they were doing?

Task

Using the information you have been given, come up with your own decision on how the blame should be shared. Give each person or group a responsibility rating out of 10 - how much of the blame you think they should have. Then, explain in your own words why each person was or was not to blame.

Judas Iscariot → Responsibility Rating /10

Jesus → Responsibility Rating /10

The Pharisees → Responsibility Rating /10

Pontius Pilate → Responsibility Rating /10

The People of Jerusalem → Responsibility Rating /10

In my opinion, I think _____ was the most responsible for Jesus' death because
