

There was no legal process, only a hollow farce by men determined to put Him to death because His gracious words and works exposed their sinful methods. Dwell upon the fact that sin will so warp the lives of even religious men that they become blind to truth and goodness.

For Teachers of the Senior Scholars

By Rev. A. Wylie Mahon, B.D., Toronto

Recall the night-scene when Judas came with the soldiers and rabble to take Jesus. Question out the incidents connected with the arrest,—the fear which fell on the soldiers, the brave but rash act of Peter, the power of Jesus to defend Himself against His enemies, His willing surrender, the flight of the disciples, Jesus led back to Jerusalem, first to Annas who had been high priest (John 18 : 13, 24) before whom a preliminary inquiry was held, then to Caiaphas the ruling high priest. Discuss :

1. *The Court*, v. 57. Bring out the bitter hostility of the members of the court to the prisoner, how Jesus in condemning their selfishness and hypocrisy had made them His bitter enemies, how His popularity with the people had excited their envy and malice. They were determined at all costs to find Jesus guilty. Help the scholars to see the striking contrast between the prisoner and the members of the court, the majesty of Jesus, and the coarse, brutal faces and figures of His judges, which artists have tried to bring out. A reference to Macaulay's account of the trial of Richard Baxter by the brutal Jeffreys will show something of the same spirit in a British court of law.

2. *The Witnesses*, vs. 59-64. Bring out that the search for false witnesses indicates that the Jewish judges knew that the prisoner was not guilty. Describe the difficulty which they experienced in getting false witnesses to agree in their evidence. How many witnesses were required in order to convict? (Deut. 17 : 6.) Question about the two false witnesses (vs. 60, 61) and their evidence, and bring out that even these did not agree, Mark 14 : 59. What element of truth was there in what they said? (See John 2 : 19.) What element of falsehood? Then the prisoner was called to give evidence. What was His evidence?

Refer to the true witnesses which might easily have been found to testify to the works of mercy which Jesus had done, and the words of life which He had spoken. What kind of witnesses for Jesus are we?

3. *The Sentence*, vs. 65-68. On whose testimony did they convict Jesus? Bring out that He was condemned because His testimony did not accord with the preconceived notions of His judges. Jesus was condemned for testifying to the truth. Refer to many who have since suffered a like fate. What shocking brutality was manifested towards the prisoner? Keep before the class that Jesus bore all this for us. How are we showing our love and gratitude?

For Teachers of the Boys and Girls

By Rev. J. M. Duncan, D.D.

Three weeks from to-day we are to study the trial of Jesus before Pilate, the Roman governor. The trial which we study now is the preliminary trial before the Jewish rulers who had no power to carry out any sentence of death. In teaching the Lesson divide it under two heads :

1. *The Trial*, vs. 57-64. Begin by drawing from the class an account of the circumstances of Jesus' arrest,—the place, the betrayer, those who made the arrest, the action of Peter (John 18 : 10), the quiet submission of Jesus now that His hour had come. Where did His enemies take Jesus? Who made up the court? Who presided? (See Light from the East.) Point out the loyalty of Peter which led him where the other disciples, with the exception of John, did not dare to go. Point out, also, the show of doing justice which was made by the court. They intended to condemn Jesus on the evidence of witnesses.

How many witnesses were necessary in a Jewish court? Have some one in the class read Deut. 19 : 15. There was a complete search made for witnesses. The only kind which could be secured were so false that even this court could not dare to use them. At last two were found who could say what? Ask some one to read John 2 : 19, and then ask how these witnesses twisted the words of Jesus. Remind the class that a half truth is often as harmful as a whole lie. Ask how