



ANSWER GUIDE

The Gospels: Episode 15

The Trial of Jesus

Discussion Questions and Answers

1. Jesus was arrested in the Garden of Gethsemane. What does “Gethsemane” mean?

Olive press.

2. Discuss the roles of Annas and Caiaphas in the arrest of Jesus.

Annas, the former high priest, questioned Jesus about his teachings and his disciples. Jesus replied that everything he had done was done in the open, and that if he did anything wrong, then they should testify against him. Caiaphas, the acting high priest, presided over the religious trial of Jesus. Caiaphas believed it was “just” to have one man suffer rather than many being led away from longstanding rules and traditions.

3. What was the residence of Pontius Pilate in Jerusalem called? Do we know where it was?

Pontius Pilate stayed at the Praetorium when he was in Jerusalem. Archeological evidence now points to Herod the Great’s palace as the location for the Praetorium.

4. Discuss the significance of the “one-on-one” encounter between Jesus and Pontius Pilate.

During the encounter between Jesus and Pontius Pilate, Pilate says that he can find no guilt in Jesus, that he has done nothing wrong. He then gives the crowd the choice to punish Jesus or another man who is assuredly guilty. The crowd shouts to crucify Jesus, and despite Pilate having decided earlier that Jesus was not deserving of the punishment, Jesus is still met with the horrible fate of being crucified.

5. Why did the religious leaders get the Romans involved in the trial of Jesus?

The Jewish leaders did not have the power to give the death penalty, since that power was reserved to the Romans.