

Week of July 7 - He Didn't Answer | Small Group Lesson 9

Connect

Think of a time when you — at home, school, work, or church – spoke out boldly and clearly and used your power and authority to proclaim the truth and oppose unrighteousness. How did that work out?

Verses - Matthew 27:11-14 (CSB)

11 Now Jesus stood before the governor. "Are you the king of the Jews?" the governor asked him.

Jesus answered, "You say so." **12** While he was being accused by the chief priests and elders, he didn't answer.

13 Then Pilate said to him, "Don't you hear how much they are testifying against you?" **14** But he didn't answer him on even one charge, so that the governor was quite amazed.

RELATED PASSAGES: Mark 15:2-5, Luke 23:2-12, John 18:33-38

REMARKABLE FACT: The question and answer underlined appear in identical Greek in the synoptic gospels as well as in John. This is unique for conversations recorded in the New Testament.

Study

1. **DISCUSS:**
   a. In reading verse 11, some may think that Jesus gives a vague and evasive answer (not simply "yes") to a clear and reasonable question.

      How would you explain this to a child or a new believer? ***What is happening here?***

   b. ***Was*** Jesus "the King of the Jews?"
      i. If so, ***in what sense was this true*?**
      ii. ***In what sense was this not true*?**

   c. Matthew reports (vv 12-13a) that Jesus ***did not respond*** at this time to ***any*** of the accusations of the chief priests and elders.
      i. **Why** did Jesus **not** respond to these accusations?
      ii. Does ***Matthew 26:64*** help to explain this? If so, ***how?***
      iii. How about ***Isaiah 53:7?*** If so, ***how?***

   d. ***Why*** was ***the governor*** "***quite amazed***" by Jesus' silence (v 13b)?

2. **APPLY:** As Christians we are called to ***imitate*** Christ. From this account of Christ's appearance before the governor, what lessons can we learn from Christ and apply in our own lives? For example:
   a. When should we speak boldly and when should we remain silent?
   b. When should we answer clearly and when should we not?
   c. When should we assert our rights and use our power, and when not?

Prayer

Please pray for one another as the Spirit moves you and, in addition, ask God…

- …to help us understand and apply today's Bible reading correctly,
- …to make us thankful for the blessings he has bestowed on us,
- …especially for forgiving and enabling us to repent of our sins, and
- …for helping us to grow spiritually as we constantly seek to imitate Christ.