



## WHY DOES HE NOT DEFEND HIMSELF?

### Slide 1

*Listen to what happened to Yoan.*

**Slide 2** - *It's not me, Dad! I assure you it's not my fault! It's not me!*

*- I was told it's you, **Slide 3** you will be punished!*

**Slide 4** - *It's not true. I'm telling you it's not me! **Slide 5** It's not fair!*

*Yoan is very angry. They are accusing him falsely. He defended himself but they didn't believe him. **Slide 6** He is punished on someone else's behalf. It's hard to live! Isn't it? Maybe you have known this situation, it made you suffer and you still remember it?*

*Today we will meet **Slide 7** Jesus in court. He's being accused unfairly. Listen well and you can answer my question: **Slide 8** Why does He accept to be condemned without defending himself, without saying anything?*

### **Slide 9** JESUS IS AT THE TRIBUNAL

**Slide 10** Jesus did nothing wrong, yet He is there in court like a thief. He is standing before the judges, before **Slide 11** Caiaphas, the high priest and the religious leaders, who are hard and wicked men. It's a strange tribunal since everything has already been decided.

**Slide 12** They question Jesus.

**Slide 13** - What did you do?

- What did you say to the people?

**Slide 14** - Come on! Tell us now! Answer!

**Slide 15** - I didn't say anything in secret, Jesus answers calmly. I taught publicly in the Temple and in synagogues. Ask those who listened to me. They will tell you.

**Slide 16** They bring in false witnesses who make all kinds of accusations against Him, terrible lies. They contradict each other and provide no proof.

**Slide 17** The accusers come one after the other but where is the lawyer? The one who must defend Jesus, where is he? There is nobody! Jesus is all alone. **Slide 18** For several hours, the interrogation continues. **Slide 19** Caiaphas asks brutally:

**Slide 20** - Tell us if you are the Messiah, the Son of God!

**Slide 21** - Yes! Jesus says, I am.

**Slide 22** They are furious. **Slide 23** The guards punch Him and slap His face. They insult him and him mistreat Him.

**Slide 24** - You heard what he said! Cries Caiaphas. **Slide 25** He claims to be God! It's a terrible affront, a blasphemy! What more do we need? **Slide 26** He deserves death!

The sentence falls. **Slide 27** They are all satisfied. Now they have to find a way to have him condemned by the Romans because since they are under Roman occupation, they can't apply the death penalty.

**Slide 28** "Let us take him to Pilate, the Roman governor," they say.

**Slide 29** They have excited a whole crowd that is accompanying them **Slide 30** to Pilate.

**Slide 31** - He's a criminal! They tell him. He claims to be the King of the Jews! **Slide 32** He deserves to die!

**Slide 33** Pilate questions Jesus.

**Slide 34** - I cannot find anything guilty in this man! I don't see why I would condemn him.

**Slide 35** - You must! You must! He encourages people to revolt. **Slide 36** He is dangerous!

**Slide 37** - Take Him to Herod, he is the governor of His region!

**Slide 38** Herod is very happy.

**Slide 39** - That's good, he says to himself. I have wanted to see Him for a long time. Maybe he will do **Slide 40** a miracle, there, in front of me!

**Slide 41** He asks Him a lot of questions but Jesus does not answer him. Herod is very upset.

**Slide 42** - Take him back to Pilate! He said.

**Slide 43** The religious leaders and the mob continue to accuse Jesus violently, but Pilate is quite **Slide 44** unsettled he would like to let him go.

**Slide 45** - I couldn't find anything to condemn him and neither could Herod. I'm going to have him have a good thrashing and **Slide 46** then I'm going to release him!

**Slide 47** - No! No! He must die! The wild crowd shouts. If you release him, you are not a friend of Caesar!

**Slide 48** - Today I have to free a prisoner! Who do you want me to release?

**Slide 49** - Barabbas! Release Barabbas!

**Slide 50** - But he's a criminal!

**Slide 51** - Release Barabbas and **Slide 52** crucify Jesus! They scream.

**Slide 53** Will Pilate hold on or will he give in **Slide 54** to the pressure and the cries of the crowd and of the religious leaders?

**Slide 55** He sends for water and in front of them he washes his hands.

**Slide 56** - This man is innocent! He declares. **Slide 57** I am not responsible for his death! It's your responsibility!

**Slide 58** He frees Barabbas and leaves Jesus in their hands. **Slide 59** Some soldiers make a crown of thorns that they put on His head. They throw a scarlet cloak on his shoulders, strike him violently.

**Slide 60** - Hail King of the Jews, they say, bowing their heads before him.

A heavy cross is brought.

**Slide 61** - Come on! Take it and move on now! They shout brutally.

**Slide 62** Jesus takes the cross. On the way people shout insults at him. His body is crushed, bruised by so many blows. He has no more strength, He stumbles, he falls. A man walks by.

**Slide 63** - Come on! You! Take up his cross and carry it! Order the soldiers.

**Slide 64** Jesus walks with difficulty. He endures all this suffering without saying a word. Not one moan, not a complaint.

### **Slide 65** 1, 2 3, 4 AND YOU AND ME!

*This story is overwhelming. We cannot understand the sufferings that Jesus has endured. He, who has done good to men all his life, is condemned to death, like a criminal. This is unfair, isn't it? **Slide 66** So why did He accept all this without defending himself, without saying anything? This is the question Benji asked us. Let's answer it now.*

*Do you remember Jesus' prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane? He said:*

**Slide 67** - *My Father, if it is possible take this cup of suffering away from me.*

*However, **Slide 68** not what I want but **Slide 69** what you want!*

*Jesus accepted to drink, that is to say to endure, all this suffering, without defending himself **Slide 70** because He takes the place, the condemnation that all men deserve to because of their disobedience, their life away from God. **Slide 71** He is punished, condemned instead of us so that God can forgive us. I suggest you think about all this in a quiet moment.*

**Slide 72** 4, 3, 2, 1 AND WE PARENTS!

*In this story we see Jesus condemned by men, Jews and Romans. But in fact, Jesus was obeying God and fulfilling His perfect plan for granting forgiveness and salvation to men. He surrendered his life, voluntarily, out of love for men, for us and our children.*

*You will find these passages in **Slide 73** the Gospel of John in chapter 18 of verses 19 to 37 and in **Slide 74** the Gospel of Luke in chapter 23 verses 1 to 12.*

*To conclude, I'm leaving this verse in your heart:*

**Slide 75** *"The punishment that gives us peace has fallen on Him, that is, on Jesus."*

*Isaiah chapter 53 verse 5*

**Slide 76**