

Questions / Answers

1. Who were the two lots of rulers who ruled over the people?
The Roman rulers and the Jewish rulers.
2. Which two laws did the people have to keep?
The Roman laws and the laws of God—the Law of Moses.
3. To whom did the people have to pay taxes?
They paid taxes to the Romans and taxes to the Temple.
4. What was the Sanhedrin?
It was a Jewish Council with 70 members who administered the Law of Moses.
5. Who were the Sadducees?
They were in control of the Temple. They were rich and were friendly with the Romans.
6. Who were the Pharisees?
They thought they were very religious and good. They despised the poor people.
7. What did the Scribes and Lawyers do?
The scribes copied out the Old Testament. The Lawyers explained it.
8. Why did the Sadducees and Chief Priests hate Jesus?
They were afraid he would take away their wealth and power.
9. Why did the Pharisees hate Jesus?
Jesus said they were hypocrites.
10. What did the Jewish rulers plan to do to Jesus?
They planned to kill him.

Memory verses

Mark 11:17 Matthew 23:37 James 3:16

Discussion

Jealousy and hypocrisy led to the rulers hating Jesus and putting him to death. Discuss or make a drama of situations in your own lives that could lead to jealousy or hypocrisy causing you or others to sin.

Writing

Sadducees. Pharisees. Chief Priests. Scribes. Lawyers. Explain who each of these 5 groups of people were. Why did each of them hate Jesus?

CBM Senior Lessons



Lesson 35 Jesus and the Jewish rulers

READING Mark 11:15-18; Matthew 23:13-28; Matthew 16:21; Luke 20:19-20

LESSON

Jesus was very popular with the ordinary people. They listened to the stories he told. They praised God when he healed their sick people. But the rulers of the people did not like Jesus.

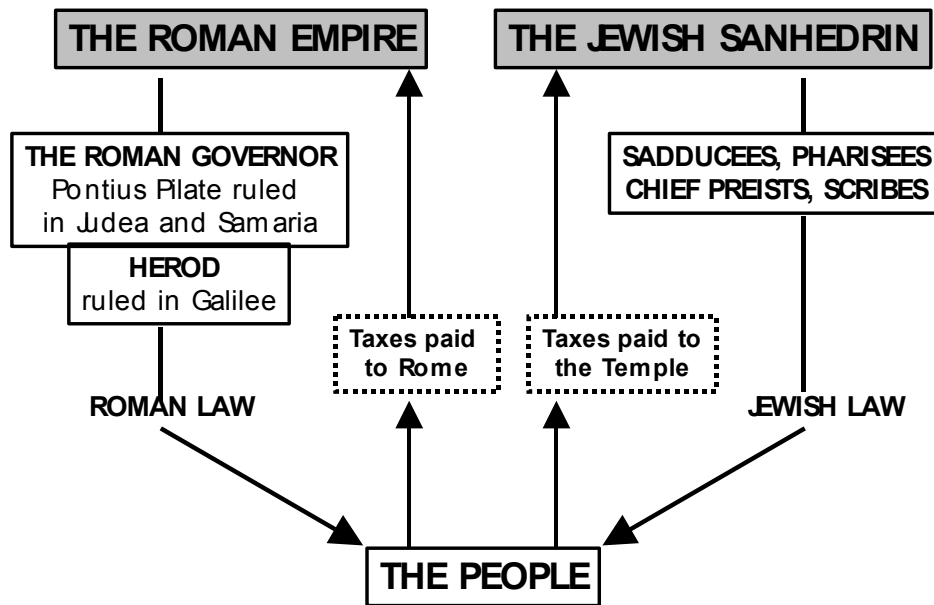
The Roman rulers. At that time the land of Israel was part of the Roman Empire. Pontius Pilate and Herod ruled over Samaria and Judea (the middle and south parts of the land). Herod Antipas ruled over Galilee in the north of the land. These Roman rulers were over the Jewish people and made them obey the Laws of Rome.

The Jewish rulers. The Jews also had their own Jewish rulers who taught them to obey the Law of God (the Law of Moses). There was a Jewish Council called the **Sanhedrin** which had 70 members. The Sanhedrin also acted as a Court and administered the Law of Moses. There were two groups of rulers in the Sanhedrin. They were called **Sadducees** and **Pharisees**. At the head of the Sanhedrin was the High Priest, he was the most important Jewish ruler. **The Chief Priests** were the most important priests who organised the worship in the Temple.

The Sadducees were in control of the Temple. They were rich and were very friendly with the Roman authorities. **The Pharisees** thought that they were the most religious people. They tried to keep the religious laws in every detail. They despised other people, especially the poor people.

The Jews were ruled by two sets of rulers - the Roman rulers and the Jewish rulers. They had to pay two lots of taxes, one tax to the Romans and one tax to pay for the Temple and the priests in Jerusalem. The Roman taxes were collected by tax-collectors. They often cheated the Jews. The Jewish people hated the tax-collectors.

There were two more groups of Jewish religious leaders. They were the **Scribes** and the **Lawyers**. The scribes copied out the Old Testament and studied it. The Lawyers explained the Law of Moses and acted as judges.



Why did the Jewish rulers dislike Jesus?

The Sadducees disliked Jesus because they thought he was a trouble maker. They thought that he was trying to persuade the people to fight against the Romans. This would make the Romans angry and would upset the arrangements that the Sadducees had with the Roman rulers. This would affect their power and their riches.

The Sadducees also controlled the trade of the Temple. Here animals were sold for sacrifices. Money was changed into Temple money to buy the animals. People were cheated by the traders. Jesus made the Sadducees angry by teaching against this trade. Twice he drove the traders out of the Temple.

The Chief Priests were also angry that Jesus criticised the arrangements in the Temple. They made a lot of money from the cheating of the traders. They did not want to lose their income. The Chief Priests and Sadducees decided to destroy Jesus. To do this, they tried to find some way to accuse Jesus to the Roman Governor. The Roman Governor had the power to put Jesus to death.

The Pharisees disliked Jesus because he said that many of them were only pretending to be good and religious. He called them 'hypocrites', which means someone who is acting a drama. The Pharisees pretended to be good, so that people would think well of them. The Pharisees made lots of unimportant rules. But they had forgotten the important laws of God - justice, love, mercy and faith.

The Pharisees did not live good lives so that they would please God. They were only interested in making men think well of them. The Pharisees said long prayers on busy street corners where everyone would see them. They gave money to beggars if people were watching them. Jesus criticised the Pharisees. He said the Pharisees looked good to other people, but they were really proud and sinful. The Pharisees hated Jesus because of this.



Jesus came to save sinners. He helped them to repent and to lead a new life. The Pharisees thought that they were better than other people. They did not think that they did anything wrong. They did not think they needed to repent.

The Sadducees and Chief Priests hated Jesus because they were afraid he would take away their wealth and power. The Pharisees hated Jesus because he told them that they were hypocrites. They also despised Jesus because he helped the poor and people who were not very good. The Scribes and Lawyers hated Jesus because his teaching about God's Law was greater than theirs. All the Jewish rulers were jealous of Jesus because the people listened to him.

Jesus said that he had been sent from God. He was the Christ (Messiah), the Son of God. The Jewish rulers would not believe what Jesus said. They saw all the miracles that he did. They listened to his wonderful teaching. But they did not believe him. Jesus had many arguments with the Jewish rulers about this. Then they hated him even more.

Jesus realised that he could not make the rulers believe in him. He knew that they hated him and were jealous of him. Jesus knew that the conflict between them would end in his death. Either Jesus had to stop teaching and healing, and stop saying that he was the Son of God, or the Jewish rulers would stop him by having him killed.

Jesus was the Son of God. He had come to save the Jewish people. He could not stop the work God had given him to do. Jesus went on with his work. He continued to teach the people and do miracles. He continued to tell the people that he was the Son of God. He taught people about God's Kingdom.

The Jewish rulers hated Jesus even more. They plotted to kill Jesus.