



Grace Assembly Of God

Chapter-by-Chapter Bible Reading Devotional

Scripture: **Matthew 27**

Title: **Keeping Silent**

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Summary of Chapter: 4 main events: Judas commits suicide, Jesus is brought before Pilate, the Roman Governor, Jesus' Crucifixion, and His death and burial.

Key Verses (NLT):

How does it speak to me?

¹¹ Now Jesus was standing before Pilate, the Roman governor. "Are you the king of the Jews?" the governor asked him.

Jesus replied, "You have said it."

¹² But when the leading priests and the elders made their accusations against him, Jesus remained silent.

Why did Jesus keep quiet and not reply the accusers, the chief priests & elders? What was going through His mind? What was His emotion when being accused unjustly? I would identify in such situation and probably in my humanity, I would be Angry, Feel Injustice, Get Ready the Sword of reasoning and Defend my innocence (seeing the situation in our own perspective rather seeking what God is trying to show us).

In my career, I work in a very stressful environment in leading a Contract Management team. There were times that we were responding to a few tenders concurrently. Tough negotiation and tight timeline, when push comes to shove, I faced a very ugly accusation from fellow colleagues for lost bids in an effort to push the blame. Fiery darts flew and accusations filled the air. I remembered there was a specific accusation targeted at my tender response as being sub-standard, and therefore, we lost the tender. I felt anger and rage, and the sword was in my hand, ready to defend and fight back. My boss knew the situation but was not sticking out to explain. However, when we choose to practice 'Keeping Silent', to take time out and wait upon the Lord; many times, and without fail, the Holy Spirit will minister to us. Cutting the story short, I received a verbal apology after some investigation. Praise the Lord! God vindicates; for judgment belongs to Him alone.

Jesus knew that nothing could derail Him from His mission. Likewise, when we take up our cross daily and follow Him in whatever situation, and as we hold steady in Him, He is able to lead us through the trial and vindicate us.

APPLICATION REFLECTIONS

Adult: When faced with a similar situation of being unreasonably accused, how would you have responded? How would Jesus' example help us?

Youth: Can you recall an accusation that was made against you by your close friend that was untrue? What was your initial reaction then?

Child: Why do you think Jesus wants to die for us on the cross? How does it feel when you are wrongly accused? How can Jesus' example help you not to answer back or be argumentative?

PRAYER

Praying Scripture: Dear heavenly Father, I thank You for coming to earth to show us the way that we how should walk and behave as a follower of Christ. Abba Father, be our defender, search our hearts, expose and remove any pride, sins and unbelief. May we submit ourselves wholly into Your caring and guiding hands.

Thanksgiving Prayer: I/We thank You for _____ (e.g. delicious food we ate, places we went, prayer that was answered, etc)

Intercessory Prayer: I/We want to pray for _____ (e.g. healing of sickness, family members, work or study, leaders, nation, etc)

Salvation Prayer: I/We pray for the salvation of my/our unsaved loved ones _____ (add one name per day). In Jesus' Name I/we pray. Amen.