

IS ST. JOHN'S GOSPEL ANTI-SEMITIC?



Of the **sixty-four** times St. John uses the term “the Jews” in his Gospel, **thirty-five** (55%) are neutral, **seven** (11%) are positive, and **twenty-two** (34%) are negative. As we begin the “Season of John” we need to admit that about one third of the time John refers to “the Jews” he is presenting them in a collective negative light. Since Anti-Semitism is a sin, what are we to make of this? I think we face it and remember that God speaks to us in Sacred Scripture, in Catholic Tradition, in the failures and sins of our past, in the questions of the present, in our hopes for the future, through others, and in our own hearts. It is important to keep the conversation alive. For more on our relations to the Jewish People check the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (paragraphs 60-64, 218-219, 597-599, 762, 839, 1611-1612).