

He Was Falsely Accused, We Are Acquitted

Jesus on Trial!

Wednesday, 3/11 at 11:00 & 7:00

Third Wednesday of Lent – 2020

Lenten Wednesdays: Join Us for our Free Meals at 12 & 6

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ: Last week we focused on Jesus praying in Gethsemane; *today we focus on Jesus being on trial*. We begin today with Jesus being arrested in Gethsemane very late in the day, *maybe around midnight*; then we will go to His trials, *thus His formal examinations*, by Annas, Caiaphas, Caiaphas, Pilate, Herod, and Pilate.

- Jesus Before Annas** (John 18:12-13, 19-24): ¹² **So the band of soldiers** [*σπεῖρα, cohort of soldiers, normally about 600*] **and their captain and the officers of the Jews arrested Jesus and bound him** [*initially Peter fought back, but then all of Jesus' disciples fled (John 18:10; Matt. 26:56)*]. ¹³ **First they led [Jesus] to Annas, for he was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, who was high priest that year...** ¹⁹ **The high priest** [*that is, Annas, who had been the high priest*] **then questioned Jesus about his disciples and his teaching** [*hoping to discover something to use against Jesus*]. ²⁰ **Jesus** [*since He recognized the authority of Annas*] **answered him, "I have spoken openly to the world. I have always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where all Jews come together. I have said nothing in secret.** ²¹ **Why do you ask me? Ask those who have heard me what I said to them; they know what I said."** ²² **When he had said these things, one of the officers standing by**

struck Jesus with his hand, saying, “Is that how you answer the high priest?”²³ Jesus answered him, “If what I said is wrong, bear witness about the wrong; but if what I said is right, why do you strike me?”²⁴ Annas then sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest. // 1:00 AM now?

2. **Jesus Before Caiaphas and the Council at Night** (Matthew 26):⁵⁷ Then those who had seized Jesus led him to Caiaphas the high priest, where the scribes and the elders had gathered [*“at least a legal quorum for a session of the Sanhedrin” (Lenski, 1056)*].... [*“The legal restrictions that forbade trials at night were... set aside in the case of Jesus” (Ibid.)*]⁵⁹ Now the chief priests and the whole council were seeking false testimony against Jesus that they might put him to death,⁶⁰ but they found none, though many false witnesses came forward [*Jesus was certainly not considered innocent until proven guilty*]. At last **two** came forward [*“...a person shall not be put to death on the evidence of one witness” (Deut. 17:6 ESV)*]⁶¹ and said, “This man said, ‘I am able to destroy the temple of God, and to rebuild it in three days.’”⁶² And the high priest stood up and said, “Have you no answer to make? What is it that these men testify against you?”⁶³ But Jesus remained silent [*Isaiah 53:7*]. And the high priest said to him, “I adjure you [*put you under oath*] by the living God, tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God.”⁶⁴ Jesus said to him, “You have said so. But I tell you, from now on you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power and coming on the clouds of heaven [*“To sit at the right hand of God is to exercise the power of this hand” (Lenski, 1065)*].”⁶⁵ Then the high priest tore his robes [*an expected response to blasphemy*] and said, “He has uttered blasphemy [*“speech that is against the nature and power of God” (Friberg)*]. What further

witnesses do we need? You have now heard his blasphemy. ⁶⁶ What is your judgment?” They answered, “He deserves death.” // “...according to Jewish legal procedure in capital cases the verdict could be passed only at a second session of the court... on another day” (Lenski, 1068). Maybe it was 2:00 AM now?

3. **Jesus Before Caiaphas and the Council during the Day** (Luke 22-23): *Jesus must have been in a prison for a few hours.* ⁶⁶ When day came, the assembly of the elders of the people gathered together, both chief priests and scribes. And they led him away to their council, and they said, ⁶⁷ “If you are the Christ, tell us.” But he said to them, “If I tell you, you will not believe, ⁶⁸ and if I ask you, you will not answer. ⁶⁹ But from now on the Son of Man shall be seated at the right hand of the power of God.” ⁷⁰ So they all said, “Are you the Son of God, then?” And he said to them, “You say that I am.” ⁷¹ Then they said, “What further testimony do we need? We have heard it ourselves from his own lips.” ^{23:1} Then the whole company of them arose and brought him before Pilate. // The Jews could determine that someone deserved to die, *but only the Roman government could carry it out.*
4. **Jesus Before Pilate** (Matthew 27): ¹¹ Now Jesus stood before the governor, and the governor asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” Jesus said, “You have said so.” ¹² But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he gave no answer. ¹³ Then Pilate said to him, “Do you not hear how many things they testify against you?” ¹⁴ But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed. // As prophesied by Isaiah, *so Jesus remained silent (53:7)!*

5. **Jesus Before Herod** (Luke 23): ⁴ Then Pilate said to the chief priests and the crowds, “I find no guilt in this man.” ⁵ But they were urgent, saying, “He stirs up the people, teaching throughout all Judea, from Galilee even to this place.” ⁶ When Pilate heard this, he asked whether the man was a Galilean. ⁷ And when he learned that he belonged to Herod’s jurisdiction, he sent him over to Herod, who was himself in Jerusalem at that time. *[Herod the Great killed the babies in Bethlehem; now his son, Herod Antipas ruled under the Romans over the region of Galilee.]* ⁸ When Herod saw Jesus, he was very glad, for he had long desired to see him, because he had heard about him, and he was hoping to see some sign *[miracle]* done by him. ⁹ So he questioned him at some length, but he made no answer. ¹⁰ The chief priests and the scribes stood by, vehemently accusing him. ¹¹ And Herod with his soldiers treated him with contempt and mocked him. Then, arraying him in splendid clothing, he sent him back to Pilate.
6. **Jesus Before Pilate** (Matthew 27): Pilate tried to release Jesus, but, *with the urging of the leaders*, the crowd chose Barabbas. ²² Pilate said... “...what shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?” They all said, “Let him be crucified!” ... ²⁴ So when Pilate saw that he was gaining nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, “I am innocent of this man’s blood; see to it yourselves.” ²⁵ And all the people answered, “His blood be on us and on our children!” ²⁶ Then... delivered him to be crucified.

Let Us Pray: Dear Lord Jesus, *TY for enduring so much for us!*