

John Lesson 52 Jesus Before Caiaphas and Pilate

Pray: Before you begin lift your heart to God and ask for the Spirit's help as you read the passage and work through these questions in His divine presence and you certainly will be given understanding.

Background:

The Sanhedrin was the high court of the Jews and was made up of about 71 members. Under Roman jurisdiction, the high court was given great authority, but was not allowed to impose the death penalty. Since the court was convened before dawn and quickly, there is a strong probability that not all were present.

Illegality of the predawn meeting of the Sanhedrin: According to Pharisaic Law any trial pertaining to a capital offense must meet during the day. One day must elapse between the questioning and the verdict. Only the worst criminals who had committed heinous crimes could be executed at the time of a festival. Caiaphas and the Sanhedrin ignored all of this. For them political necessity triumphed over legal ethics.

Jesus Questioned by Caiaphas: The Second Jewish Phase before Caiaphas and the Sanhedrin

Read John 18:24 and Matthew 26:57-68

1. In this before dawn questioning of Jesus, what were the Sanhedrin trying to accomplish and why according to Matthew 26:59-61 ?

2. In Matthew 26:59 It says that the chief priest and elders were seeking "false testimony" against Jesus. These were men who were supposed to uphold the Mosaic Law. What does the Mosaic Law say about false witnesses? (See Deuteronomy 19:15 - 20) What does the actions of these men of the court in regard to false witnesses reveal about their regard for the Word of God and their hearts?

Application: In your own personal walk with the Lord, do you ever struggle with head knowledge of God's Word, versus obedience to God's word? (See James 1:22-25)

3. Two witnesses were found to say that Jesus said, "I am able to destroy the temple and rebuild it in 3 days." What was Jesus response to the testimony of these men? Matthew 26:63 How is this a fulfillment of Isaiah 53:7-8?

4. In Matthew 26:63 what did the High Priest want Jesus to confess? In 26:64 Jesus refers to Himself as "the Son of Man". Why would Caiaphas, upon hearing Jesus say this, accuse Jesus of blasphemy? See Daniel 7:13 -14 What did the Mosaic Law say was the penalty for blasphemy? See Leviticus 24:10-16

5. In Matthew 26:66-68 how was Jesus treated? How was this a fulfillment of prophecy?

Isaiah 50:5-6-

Isaiah 53:3-

Micah 5:1-

Read Isaiah 53:1-7

6. Why did Jesus endure the injustice and punishment against Him and who allowed it?

Application: We read in Isaiah 53:6-7 that the results of what Jesus endured is peace and healing for all who believe. How have you as a believer experienced this peace? In what areas has Jesus healed you?