



Matthew 26:57-68

- Matt. 26:57 And those who had laid hold of Jesus led Him away to Caiaphas the high priest, where the scribes and the elders were assembled.
- Matt. 26:58 But Peter followed Him at a distance to the high priest's courtyard. And he went in and sat with the servants to see the end.
- Matt. 26:59 Now the chief priests, the elders, and all the council sought false testimony against Jesus to put Him to death,
- Matt. 26:60 but found none. Even though many false witnesses came forward, they found none. But at last two false witnesses came forward
- Matt. 26:61 and said, "This fellow said, 'I am able to destroy the temple of God and to build it in three days.' "
- Matt. 26:62 And the high priest arose and said to Him, "Do You answer nothing? What is it these men testify against You?"
- Matt. 26:63 But Jesus kept silent. And the high priest answered and said to Him, "I put You under oath by the living God: Tell us if You are the Christ, the Son of God!"
- Matt. 26:64 Jesus said to him, "It is as you said. Nevertheless, I say to you, hereafter you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Power, and coming on the clouds of heaven."
- Matt. 26:65 Then the high priest tore his clothes, saying, "He has spoken blasphemy! What further need do we have of witnesses? Look, now you have heard His blasphemy!
- Matt. 26:66 What do you think?" They answered and said, "He is deserving of death."
- Matt. 26:67 Then they spat in His face and beat Him; and others struck Him with the palms of their hands,
- Matt. 26:68 saying, "Prophecy to us, Christ! Who is the one who struck You?"

Note the injustices that Jesus experienced!

- ❖ This nighttime trial was illegal according to the Sanhedrin's own laws and regulations.
- ❖ According to Jewish law, all criminal trials must begin and end in the daylight.
- ❖ According to Jewish law, criminal cases could not be tried during the Passover season.
- ❖ According to Jewish law, only an acquittal could be issued on the day of the trial. Guilty verdicts had to wait one night to allow for feelings of mercy to rise.
- ❖ According to Jewish law, all evidence had to be guaranteed by two witnesses, who were separately examined and could not have contact with each other. This was not practiced here.
- ❖ According to Jewish law, false witness was punishable by death. Nothing was done to the many false witnesses in Jesus' trial.
- ❖ According to Jewish law, a trial always began by bringing forth evidence for the innocence of the accused before the evidence of guilt was offered. This was not practiced here.
- ❖ Jesus was forced to endure six separate trials (before Annas, Caiaphas, Sanhedrin, Pilate, Herod Antipas, & Pilate again.)

Observations & Discussion

1. Based on what you just read what evidence do you find that this court was prejudiced against Jesus?
2. Record in the space below any evidence you find in the text of perjured testimony against Jesus:
3. What evidence do you see in the text that demonstrates that the verdict against Jesus was a perversion of justice?
4. Why do you think the Jewish leaders purposely refused to give Jesus a fair trial?
5. Read Leviticus 21:10; during this trial who was actually guilty of breaking the Law?
6. In vs. 61 two people bore false witness against Jesus. How did they misrepresent what Jesus actually said?
7. Compare what Jesus said in vs. 64 with Daniel 7:13-14. What was Jesus claiming about Himself?
8. Why do you think Jesus allowed Himself to suffer so much injustice?