

# Jesus on Trial

## John 18

The upper room discussion has now been concluded. Jesus dismisses the disciples with a prayer for unity and the twelve of them travel eastward to the garden of Gethsemane. Jesus has told the disciples of the disappointment, sorrows, and hardships that they would suffer due to their faith in the upper room. The Lord has also encouraged the disciples that they may never loose heart (cf. Jn. 14:27). John chapter 18 reveals the Lord's trial before men that He may make the one time sacrifice for our sins.

### **I. Jesus before Annas:**

- A.** John's account of the life of Christ is the only detailed record we have of the first part of Jesus' trial under Annas.
- B.** Annas was the father in law to Caiaphas and served as high priest from AD 6-15. He is eventually replaced as high priest by the Roman authorities. The Romans install Caiaphas as high priest during the years AD 18-36.
- C.** Clearly the Jews have brought Jesus to Annas first because they considered him the rightful high priest (cf. Numb. 20:28; 35:25).
- D.** Jesus defends truth in the hearing of His accusers.

### **II. Jesus before Caiaphas:**

- A.** A lesson is learned at this point of Jesus' trial on the part of Peter.
- B.** As Jesus is being sent to Caiaphas, Peter denies the Lord three times thus fulfilling the Lord's statement in John 13:36-38.
  - 1.** This is the same Peter that had pronounced the deity of Christ (Matt. 16:16).
  - 2.** This same Peter told Jesus there was no other than He to turn to in this life (Jn. 6:68).
  - 3.** This is the same Peter who told Jesus he was ready to lay down his life for the Lord (Jn. 13:37).
  - 4.** This is the same Peter that cut off the ear of Malchus as he physically defended Jesus (Jn. 18:10-11).
  - 5.** This same Peter now denies that he even knows the Lord. Matthew records that Peter even began to curse (Matt. 26:74).
  - 6.** When the cock crowed, Peter went and wept bitterly (Matt. 26:75).
- C.** Jesus confesses His deity before Caiaphas and is charged with blasphemy (Mk. 14:62).

### **III. Jesus before Pilate:**

- A.** Pilate was the Roman Governor from AD 26-36.
- B.** The Jews hypocritically avoid defilement with the Gentiles yet unscrupulously make false accusations against Jesus.
- C.** Jesus reveals the spiritual nature of His Kingdom.

- D. Pilate returns to the Jews and states, “I find no fault in him.”
- E. The Jews respond with 5 accusations:
1. Jesus is guilty of blasphemy (Matt. 26:65).
  2. Jesus is guilty of perverting the nation (Lk. 23:1-5).
  3. Jesus is guilty of forbidding to give Caesar tribute money (Lk. 23:1-5).
  4. Jesus is guilty of making claims to being a king (Lk. 23:1-5).
  5. Jesus is guilty of stirring up the people of Galilee with His teachings (Lk. 23:1-5)
- F. When Pilate hears that Jesus had done work in Galilee, he sends the Lord to Herod (fourth part of trial).

**Conclusion and Lessons to Be Learned from John 18:**

- Jesus was a man of conviction and purpose.
- Even those great in the kingdom of God sin.
- Hypocrisy defined.
- Understanding the nature of the kingdom of God.