



The Life of Jesus (119)

Trials of Jesus (1)

Matthew 26:57-63



#1 6 Trials of Jesus

After Jesus was arrested, He went through a total of 6 trials alone. There were six parts to Jesus' trials: three in a religious court and three before a Roman court.

1) Annas

“Then the detachment of soldiers with its commander and the Jewish officials arrested Jesus. They bound him and brought him first to Annas, who was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, the high priest that year” (Jn 18:12)

2) Caiaphas

Annas questioned Jesus, then sent Him to Caiaphas.

“Then Annas sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.” (Jn 18:24)



#2 6 Trials of Jesus

3) Sanhedrin

“At daybreak the council of the elders of the people, both the chief priests and the teachers of the law, met together, and Jesus was led before them.” (Lk 22:66)



4) Pilate

However, the council, Sanhedrin, did not have the power to carry out the death penalty. So the religious leaders sent Jesus to the Pontius Pilate, who was the governor of the Roman province of Judea at that time.



5) Herod

“Then Pilate announced to the chief priests and the crowd, “I find no basis for a charge against this man” ...When he learned that Jesus was under Herod’s jurisdiction, he sent him to Herod” (Lk 23:4-7)

#3 6 Trials of Jesus

6) Pilate

Herod asked Jesus many questions, but Jesus gave him no answer. So he sent Jesus back to Pilate.

“Then Herod and his soldiers ridiculed and mocked him. Dressing him in an elegant robe, **they sent him back to Pilate.**” (Lk 23:11)

Finally, Jesus stood before Pilate again. Yet Pilate found no reason to condemn Him to death. So Pilate said,

“I have examined him in your presence and **have found no basis for your charges against him.** Neither has Herod, for he sent him back to us; as you can see, **he has done nothing to deserve death.**” (Lk 23:14-16)



#4 6 Trials of Jesus

6) Pilate

Pilate didn't want to kill Jesus because he knew that He was innocent. In the end, however, he decided to have Him crucified because he was afraid there would be a riot.

“When Pilate saw that he was getting nowhere, but **that instead an uproar was starting**, he took water and washed his hands in front of the crowd. “I am innocent of this man's blood,” he said. “It is your responsibility!” All the people answered, “His blood is on us and on our children!” Then he released Barabbas to them. **But he had Jesus flogged, and handed him over to be crucified.**” (Mt 27:24-26)

These are the 6 trials—3 by the religious leaders and 3 by the government—that Jesus went through from Thursday night to Friday morning.

#5 Jesus Before the High Priest

The religious leaders tried to find evidence to support their decision to kill Him. But, they couldn't find any because even though many false witnesses tried to testify against Jesus, their testimony was not consistent.

“The chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin were looking for evidence against Jesus so that they could put him to death, but **they did not find any**. Many testified falsely against him, but their statements did not agree.” (Mk 14:55-56)

Then, two witnesses came forward and declared, “This fellow said, ‘I am able to destroy the temple of God and rebuild it in three days.’” (Mt 26:61)

#6 Jesus Before the High Priest

Jesus did say something similar about the temple.

“Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days.” (Jn 2:19)

What Jesus was really talking about wasn't the physical temple, but the spiritual one that He would build through His death and resurrection.

“But the temple he had spoken of was his body” (Jn 2:21)

Jesus never implied or said that He would destroy the temple. So what the two witnesses said was not true.

After hearing the testimonies, the high priest asked Jesus, “Are you not going to answer? What is this testimony that these men are bringing against you?” (Mt 26:62)

“But Jesus remained silent” (Mt 26:63)

#7 Jesus Before the High Priest

By remaining silent against the false testimonies against Him, Jesus fulfilled several prophecies.

“...False witnesses rise up against me, spouting malicious accusations” (Ps 27:12)

“Those who want to kill me set their traps, those who would harm me talk of my ruin; all day long they scheme and lie. I am like the deaf, who cannot hear, like the mute, who cannot speak; I have become like one who does not hear, whose mouth can offer no reply” (Ps 38:12-14)

“He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth.” (Is 53:7)

Jesus was not silent because he could not refute the false testimonies. All the testimonies brought against Him were false. Jesus could easily have defended Himself. If He had wanted to, no one there would have been able to condemn Him.

#8 Jesus Before the High Priest

But, Jesus chose to remain in silent because again, that was how He fulfilled the “prophecies… that say it must happen in this way” (Mt 26:54).

Jesus knew what He would go through if He remained silent there, but still He chose not to defend Himself because again, He placed God’s will first and that was how He could bear our sins along with their condemnation.

In order to free us from all the accusations we deserve, our Lord Jesus was unjustly and falsely accused. That’s how much Jesus loved us to the point of being cursed on our behalf to forgive our sins and heal us.

“He was despised and rejected by mankind, a man of suffering, and familiar with pain. Like one from whom people hide their faces he was despised, and we held him in low esteem.” (Is 53:3)

Memory Verses

“I have examined him in your presence and have found no basis for your charges against him... he has done nothing to deserve death.” (Lk 23:14-16) (1)

“He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth.” (Is 53:7) (1)

Reflection Questions

1) Why do you think Jesus remained silent against the false testimonies about Him? Do you think it was necessary for our salvation? What does it tell you about Him? How can you apply that characteristic in your life?