

Travesty of Justice: the Jewish Trial of Jesus

Mark 14:53-65



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I. The Setting of the Jewish Trials (53-54)

- Three Jewish (ecclesiastical) trials
 - 1) Arraignment before Annas around 12 or 1 am.

Jerusalem in Jesus' Time



Model of Jerusalem in Jesus' Time (from south)



Annas

- The most powerful Jewish man in Israel.
- Served as high priest for 9 years.
- Five of his sons would eventually serve in that position.
- His son-in-law, Caiaphas, was the current High Priest.
- Not primarily a religious man—a Sadducee.
- A powerful, ruthless politician.

I. The Setting of the Jewish Trials (53-54)

- Three Jewish Trials (ecclesiastical)
 - 1) Arraignment before Annas around 12 or 1 am.
 - 2) A hearing before a quorum of the Sanhedrin at the house of Caiaphas.
 - 3) A formal meeting of the Sanhedrin in its normal meeting place in the temple courts (Luke 22:66).

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I. The Setting of the Jewish Trials (53-54)

- Three Roman Trials (criminal)
 - 1) Before Pilate.
 - 2) Before Herod.
 - 3) Before Pilate.

Typical Home in Upper City



Caiaphas

- Was the high priest (Matt. 26:3).
- Served as high priest from 18-37 A.D.
- Was the son-in-law of Annas (John 18:13)
- Also present: a quorum—if not all—the Sanhedrin.
- Matt. 26:57-68; Mark 14:53-65; Luke 22:54

II. The Purpose of the Jewish Trial (55a)

- "Trying to obtain testimony against Jesus to put Him to death."
- According to the Mishnah, the trial of Jesus violated clear Jewish law in several ways...
 - 1) No capital trial was allowed during the night.
 - 2) The arrest of Jesus was the result of a bribe.
 - 3) Jesus was repeatedly asked to incriminate himself.
 - 4) In capital punishment cases Jewish law did not allow the sentence to be pronounced on the same day as the conviction.

II. The Purpose of the Jewish Trial (55a)

- Mark 3:6 - The Pharisees went out and immediately *began* conspiring with the Herodians against Him, *as to* how they might destroy Him.
- Mark 15:10 - For he was aware that the chief priests had handed Him over because of envy.
- Mark 14:1 - Now the Passover and Unleavened Bread were two days away; and the chief priests and the scribes were seeking how to seize Him by stealth and kill Him;

III. The Failure of the Jewish Trial (55b-59)

- In Acts 6:11, the Sanhedrin actually suborned perjury against Stephen:
 - "They secretly induced men to say, 'We have heard him speak blasphemous words against Moses and *against* God.'"

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False Witnesses...

- 1) Jesus had actually said "if you destroy this temple," meaning His body, in three days I will raise it up.
 - The accusation is that He said He was going to destroy the temple.
- 2) There is no record in John's gospel that Jesus spoke of a Temple made "with hands" and another "made without hands."
- 3) The implication of their accusation was that Jesus intended to destroy the physical Temple out of an utter disrespect for it.
 - Mark 11:17- And He *began* to teach and say to them, "Is it not written, 'MY HOUSE SHALL BE CALLED A HOUSE OF PRAYER FOR ALL THE NATIONS' ? But you have made it a ROBBERS' DEN."