

The Gospel of John – Part 64

Illegal Trials of Jesus

John 18:12-27

Desert Son Community Church

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I. Introduction

II. The four acts of this incredible drama

A. Jesus trial: Act one, scene one (John 18:12-14)

- When living Old testament Sacrifices were brought to the Altar of sacrifice, they were always **bound**

There were six parts to Jesus' trial: three stages in a religious court and three stages before a Roman court. Jesus was tried before Annas, the former high priest; Caiaphas, the current high priest; and the Sanhedrin. He was charged in these "ecclesiastical" trials with blasphemy, claiming to be the Son of God, the Messiah.

The trials before the Roman authorities started with Pilate (John 18:23) after Jesus was beaten. The charges brought against Him were very different from the charges in His religious trials. He was charged with inciting people to riot, forbidding the people to pay their taxes, and claiming to be King.

- Annas did not hold an **official** office but he was the most powerful figurehead in the Jewish anarchy
- Annas was also the Father-in law of **Caiaphas**

B. Peter's Denial: Act One, scene two (John 18:15-18)

1. "The Other Disciple"

- The "other disciple" was most likely **John** (cf. John 20:2-8)
- The story of Peter's threefold denial of Christ is found in all **four** Gospel accounts: Matthew 26:69-74, Mark 14:66-72, Luke 22:55-62, and John 18:15-18, 25-27.

2. Why did Peter deny Jesus?

- a. Peter denied Jesus due to his **weakness**
- b. Peter denied Jesus due to his **fear**.

C. Jesus trial, Act two, scene 1 (John 18:19-24)

- Jewish law protected the accused of being forced to **testify** against himself
- The purpose of the religious trials was to put a veneer of **legality** to Jesus murder

The trials before Jewish authorities, the religious trials, showed the degree to which the Jewish leaders hated Him because they carelessly disregarded many of their own laws. There were several illegalities involved in these trials from the perspective of Jewish law:

1. No trial was to be held during **feast** time.
2. Each member of the court was to vote individually to convict or acquit, but Jesus was convicted by **ovation**.
3. If the death penalty was given, a **night** must pass before the sentence was carried out; however, only a few hours passed before Jesus was placed on the Cross.
4. The Jews had no **authority** to execute anyone.
5. No trial was to be held at **night**, but this trial was held before dawn.
6. The accused was to be given counsel or **representation**, but Jesus had none.
7. The accused was not to be asked **self-incriminating** questions, but Jesus was asked if He was the Christ.

D. Peter's denial: Act Two, scene two (John 18:25-27)

III. Application

Every day we have a choice to make...

- A. We can stand up for the reputation of Jesus Christ
- B. Or we can choose to deny Jesus
- C. We have been given the privilege of defending Christ and upholding His reputation
- D. So how can you defend Christ's reputation...?
- E. List four practical ways that you can defend Christ's reputation this week... (i.e. choose to forgive, choose to not retaliate or hold grudges, etc.) Be specific!

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____