

PORTRAIT
OF THE
King



ATONEMENT

“A Kangaroo Court”

MATTHEW 26:57-68



1. A legal proceeding in which one of two things happened:
 - a. Legalities have been “jumped over” to speed up a case or find someone guilty
 - b. The outcome of a case is already in “someone’s pocket”

A Kangaroo Court



Judge	Scripture	Kind of Trial	Highlights
Annas	John 18:12-14, 19-23	Religious	Questioned Jesus' teaching
Caiaphas	Matthew 26:57-68	Religious	Accused Jesus of saying he'd destroy the Temple and of blasphemy; said he deserved capital punishment
Sanhedrin	Matthew 27:1-2	Religious	Determined to have Him killed
Pilate	John 18:28-38	Civil	Sent to Herod since Jesus was from Galilee
Herod	Luke 23:6-12	Civil	Mocked Jesus; not a serious trial
Pilate (again)	John 18:39-19:6	Civil	Traded Jesus for Barabbas; found Jesus innocent but sent Him to be crucified

1. Justice

**Two Words About the Jewish
Legal System**



*Then the LORD said to Moses,
“Gather for me seventy men of the elders of Israel,
whom you know to be the elders of the people
and officers over them,
and bring them to the tent of meeting,
and let them take their stand there with you.*

Numbers 11:16



18 “You shall appoint judges and officers in all your towns that the LORD your God is giving you, according to your tribes, and they shall judge the people with righteous judgment. 19 You shall not pervert justice. You shall not show partiality, and you shall not accept a bribe, for a bribe blinds the eyes of the wise and subverts the cause of the righteous...”

Deuteronomy 16:18-20



*²⁰ Justice, and only justice, you shall follow,
that you may live and inherit the land that the LORD your
God is giving you.*

Deuteronomy 16:18-20



*The hand of the witnesses shall be first against
him to put him to death,
and afterward the hand of all the people.
So you shall purge the evil from your midst.*

Deuteronomy 17:7



¹⁶ If a malicious witness arises to accuse a person of wrongdoing, ¹⁷ then both parties to the dispute shall appear before the LORD, before the priests and the judges who are in office in those days. ¹⁸ The judges shall inquire diligently, and if the witness is a false witness and has accused his brother falsely, ¹⁹ then you shall do to him as he had meant to do to his brother. So you shall purge the evil from your midst.

Deuteronomy 19:16-19



1. Justice

- a. Numbers 11:16
- b. Deuteronomy 16:18-20
- c. Deuteronomy 17:7
- d. Deuteronomy 19:16-19

2. Mercy

Two Words About the Jewish Legal System



KEY POINT:

Jesus was **willing** to suffer **injustices**.



Jesus “felt as if God were taking him by the hand and leading him before the courts of Heaven to show everyone the unworthy wretch whom it was His will to shower with grace.”

Brother Lawrence,
*The Practice of the
Presence of God*



KEY POINT:

Jesus was **willing** to suffer **injustices**.



1. Not on a Festival Day
2. Not on the Sabbath
3. Not on the eve of the Sabbath
4. Not in the middle of the night

**When Were Legal Proceedings
to Take Place?**



1. Not in the home of the High Priest (Luke 22:54)
2. To be made public

**Where Was a Case to
Be Heard?**



1. 2-3 witnesses required
2. Contradictory testimonies thrown out
3. No witness coercion, bribery, manipulation
4. No witnesses led to acquittal

**What About Witnesses
to the Crime?**



1. The right to not testify against yourself
2. There needed to be more than the testimony from the accused .
3. The accused got to speak first (aka “opening statement”).

**What Were the Rights of
the Accused?**



1. Capital punishment could not take place for at least three days.
2. Prayer and fasting was required before capital punishment for the judges.
3. New evidence or witnesses could be introduced for a re-trial.

What About Verdicts?



KEY POINT:

Jesus was **willing** to suffer **injustices**.



I. Conviction (vs. 57-58)



- A friend of Rome more than a friend of the Jews
- Annas, his father-in-law
- Made money in the Temple with money-changing (Matthew 21; John 2)

Who Was Caiaphas?



- The Jewish governing body
- “*Sanhedrin*” means “sitting together.”
- Comprised of 70 chief priests, elders, and scribes and a High Priest – bringing the total to 71
- Also referred to as the Council (Matthew 26:59; Mark 14:55) or Court (Matthew 5:22; 10:17; Mark 13:9) or Senate (Acts 5:21) or Council of the Elders (Luke 22:66; Acts 22:5)

What Was the Sanhedrin?



I. Conviction (vs. 57-58)

II. Conspiracy (vs. 59-61)



*20 Can wicked rulers be allied with you,
those who frame injustice by statute?
21 They band together against the life of
the righteous and condemn the innocent
to death.*

Psalm 94:20-21



- I. Conviction (vs. 57-58)
- II. Conspiracy (vs. 59-61)
- III. Confrontation (vs. 62-64)



*He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, YET HE
OPENED NOT HIS MOUTH; like a lamb that is led
to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its
shearers is silent,
so HE OPENED NOT HIS MOUTH.*

Isaiah 53:7



KEY POINT:

Jesus was **willing** to suffer **injustices**.



³ *He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,*
⁴ *having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.*

Hebrews 1:3-4



- I. Conviction (vs. 57-58)
- II. Conspiracy (vs. 59-61)
- III. Confrontation (vs. 62-64)
- IV. Condemnation (vs. 65-66)



*The priest who is chief among his brothers,
on whose head the anointing oil is poured and
who has been consecrated to wear the garments,
shall not let the hair of his head hang loose
NOR TEAR HIS CLOTHES.*

Leviticus 21:10



*Whoever blasphemes the name of the Lord
shall surely be put to death.*

All the congregation shall stone him.

*The sojourner as well as the native,
when he blasphemes the Name,
shall be put to death.*

Leviticus 24:16



- I. Conviction (vs. 57-58)
- II. Conspiracy (vs. 59-61)
- III. Confrontation (vs. 62-64)
- IV. Condemnation (vs. 65-66)
- V. Conclusion (vs. 67-68)



KEY POINT:

Jesus was **willing** to suffer **injustices**.



*Then they left the presence of the council,
rejoicing that they were counted worthy to
suffer dishonor for the name.*

Acts 5:41



“... The cross God sends is a cross that He understood with His divine mind, tested with His wise justice, and weighed with His own hands to see that it be not one inch too large and not one ounce too heavy for the person to whom He has ...

Joni Eareckson Tada



“... given it,’ as one writer put it... The Bible puts it this way: ‘All this is evidence that God's judgment is right, and as a result you will be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you are suffering’ ...

Joni Eareckson Tada



“... (II Thessalonians 1:5).
When it comes to the cross...
you daily bear, join me in
agreeing that God's judgment is
right. The cross you shoulder is
not one inch too large nor one
ounce too heavy, for the Lord
especially hand-tailored it so ...”

Joni Eareckson Tada



“... that Christ's kingdom might
be advanced through you.
That alone is the highest
of honors.”

Joni Eareckson Tada

