

18:13-28 The Arrest and Condemnation of Jesus

Series: Who is Jesus, the Christ?

Reading – John 18:13-28 25 September, 2016

We have been looking at how Jesus faced His accusers. He knew this was God's will for His life. He had lived a righteous life, He had prayed and been granted strength, and He had gone forward to confess His identity in front of the mob. He was ready to do the Father's will. Now we want to look at the other side of the coin for a bit. Let's take a look at the mob and the trail of Jesus. Was Jesus legally arrested and convicted as an evildoer, or is this whole trail a sham? While we as Christians know the answer, I think it will be interesting to see the evidence that is used against Him, and what question, He as the Son of God, chooses to answer and respond to. (The list of irregularities used in the lesson comes from: "Interpretations of the Bible" by B. H. Carrol).

- **Vs. 2** The Mob! The Judas having received a detachment of troops...
 - Roman Cohort – Detachment – A legion was made up of 10 cohorts, with each cohort made up of 6 centuries. Each Century was 80 men. (100BC reduced from 100 to 80) So there was a tribune with a heavy body guard that could control the mob if need be. Up to a maximum of 600 men, probably not all of them, but a smaller portion of a couple of hundred.
 - After Peter starts fighting, the detachment enters and arrests Jesus. They couldn't get involved until there was fighting, then they could "maintain the peace"
 - **Acts 21:31-35** Paul is saved from the mob by the Commander of the Roman Garrison in Jerusalem
- **Vs. 13** Annas the Father-in-law of Caiaphas the High Priest.
 - Annas had been a High Priest. 6 of his Sons would be High Priests. He was the Power behind the position.
 - 168 BC Antiochus IV also known as Antiochus Epiphanies caused a statue to be erected in the Holy of Holies, declaring Himself God. This sparked a Jewish revolt by Judas Maccabaeus (the Jewish head of state) and concluded with a treaty with Rome about 160 BC to gain protection from the Greeks. This treaty was strengthened in 139 BC. This treaty continued up to 63BC when the Roman General Pompey invaded and settled a Legion in Jerusalem. Because of the initial treaties, the Jewish were exempt from emperor worship, and allowed to worship God.
 - This was part of the reason, fear of persecution that Caiaphas wanted Jesus to die, and the Jews in Asia Minor would persecute the Church vigorously. (**Rev. 3:9** – Synagogue of Satan – (**Rev 3:7-14** Church in Philadelphia)
 - By the time of Christ, the Roman Government was fully in Control and controlled even the temple worship appointing the High Priests from among the different priests families. The Jews still viewed it as a Life Time appointment. Annas was made High Priest from AD 6 to AD 15 and remained the power behind the position. He is also referred to as the High Priest in Vs. 14 and 19.
 - **Acts 4:6**⁶ as well as Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and as many as were of the family of the high priest, were gathered together at Jerusalem.
 - What you had was a small band of men who became a ruling elite over the other Priests.
- **Vs. 19-23** High Priest asks Jesus about His disciples and doctrine. – There were many irregularities...
Book: Interpretations of the Bible by B. H. Carrol
 - Spys were forbidden. – Judas
 - No arrests in the night! Arrests were to be Public and Visible.
 - There were to be No special courts, but a gathering of the Leaders with Pharisees and Sanhedrin.
 - **Acts 4:5-7**⁵ And it came to pass, on the next day, that their rulers, elders, and scribes,⁶ as well as Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and as many as were of the family of the high priest, were gathered together at Jerusalem.⁷ And when they had set them in the midst, they asked, "By what power or by what name have you done this?"

- **Acts 22:30-23:1** ³⁰ The next day, because he wanted to know for certain why he was accused by the Jews, he released him from his bonds, and commanded the chief priests and all their council to appear, and brought Paul down and set him before them.
 - **Acts 23:6** ⁶ But when Paul perceived that one part were Sadducees and the other Pharisees, he cried out in the council, "Men and brethren, I am a Pharisee, the son of a Pharisee; concerning the hope and resurrection of the dead I am being judged!"
- Trails were supposed to be public. (Peter and Paul)
- Three days from accusation in a Capital offense to final Verdict. (Christ less than 24 hours)
- Needed a Minimum of two or Three Witnesses.
 - **Matthew 26:57-68** ⁵⁷ And those who had laid hold of Jesus led Him away to Caiaphas the high priest, where the scribes and the elders were assembled. ⁵⁸ But Peter followed Him at a distance to the high priest's courtyard. And he went in and sat with the servants to see the end. ⁵⁹ Now the chief priests, the elders¹, and all the council sought false testimony against Jesus to put Him to death, ⁶⁰ but found none. Even though many false witnesses came forward, they found none¹. But at last two false witnesses² came forward ⁶¹ and said, "This fellow said, 'I am able to destroy the temple of God and to build it in three days.'" ⁶² And the high priest arose and said to Him, "Do You answer nothing? What is it these men testify against You?" ⁶³ But Jesus kept silent. And the high priest answered and said to Him, "I put You under oath by the living God: Tell us if You are the Christ, the Son of God!" ⁶⁴ Jesus said to him, "It is as you said. Nevertheless, I say to you, hereafter you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Power, and coming on the clouds of heaven." ⁶⁵ Then the high priest tore his clothes, saying, "He has spoken blasphemy! What further need do we have of witnesses? Look, now you have heard His blasphemy!" ⁶⁶ "What do you think?" They answered and said, "He is deserving of death." ⁶⁷ Then they spat in His face and beat Him; and others struck Him with the palms of their hands, ⁶⁸ saying, "Prophesy to us, Christ! Who is the one who struck You?"
 - Only one question that a condemned man was to answer, who are you!
 - Two questions asked
 - **John 18:19** ¹⁹ The high priest then asked Jesus about His disciples and His doctrine.
 - God is not required to answer, nor will He be bullied or forced to answer.
 - **Matthew 13:10-13** ¹⁰ And the disciples came and said to Him, "Why do You speak to them in parables?" ¹¹ He answered and said to them, "Because it has been given to you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given. ¹² For whoever has, to him more will be given, and he will have abundance; but whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him. ¹³ "Therefore I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand.
 - God is Sovereign in giving the message. We are responsible to hear and obey.
 - Two verses that give us the conditions that God will speak to us.
 - **Deu. 4:29** ²⁹ "But from there you will seek the LORD your God, and you will find Him if you seek Him with all your heart and with all your soul.
 - **John 7:16-17** ¹⁶ Jesus¹ answered them and said, "My doctrine is not Mine, but His who sent Me. ¹⁷ "If anyone wants to do His will, he shall know concerning the doctrine, whether it is from God or whether I speak on My own authority.
 - Warning to not play with God. If we aren't serious, He will remove even what we have. This is part of God's Sovereignty.
- **Matthew 26:63-64** ⁶³ But Jesus kept silent. And the high priest answered and said to Him, "I put You under oath by the living God: Tell us if You are the Christ, the Son of God!" ⁶⁴ Jesus said to him, "It is as you said. Nevertheless, I say to you, hereafter you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Power, and coming on the clouds of heaven."

- The Son of God – His Authority. For the unbeliever, God still is. You can try to change the truth, to get out of it, to leave it, but it still is...
- For the Believers it is why Paul would talk about working out His Salvation with Fear and Trembling in **Philippians 2:12** and why he would give us His example of “pressing on that He might apprehend” eternal Life in **Philippians 3:12-14**.

This is important for every believer to understand. We are not to sit on our laurels and sing about past victories, but to press on, following our Lord. Next week we are going to look at the third question asked Jesus and Pilot's response, “What is truth.” Standing in front of the King of Kings and Lord of Lord, the one who was truth personified. The one who came to reveal and manifest God, but He had missed it. Why? Because He like the Jewish leaders didn't want to know the truth, even when they were faced with it, they denied it. Let's make sure of our own hearts today. Are they soft, waiting and seeking after God?

Prayer “Now May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit *be* with you all. Amen.” (**2Co 13:14 NKJ**) **In Jesus Name**

Sing the Doxology.... Praise God from whom all blessings flow, Praise Him all creature, here below..., Praise Him above you heavenly hosts, praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen