

The Man Who Is God

“The Man On Trial”

VPB 03/18/12 & 3/25/12

Primary John 18:12-24

Also: Mt. 26:57-68 Luke 22:54-71 / Mark 14:53-65

Sermon Point: *To examine the accounts of the trial of Jesus before the Jewish leaders and the Sanhedrin. To follow the timeline of events after His being taken in the garden and prior to His delivery to the Roman Procurator Pontus Pilate. To see the injustice upon the Savior and His reaction to the events of the night of His arrest into the morning of his execution.*

Here now, the chances that all sinful minded men have desired for centuries since the creation of the world, the Jewish leaders have their hands on God! And in their minds blinded by depravity and sin, they finally get to pour out their hatred upon Him!

This is a dark night! This night and the following day are the blackest days in the entire history of the world from creation until today. This is the ultimate night of sin, devilry, and abomination!

The murder of the Lord Jesus Christ; plotted, planned, schemed, and brought about to finally rid the world of Him and of His influence. And ever since this night sinful men have still sought to rid the world of His influence.

And although the ones perpetrating this terrible event have the arrogance to think they are finally having their way with Jesus little do they know that the eternal plan of salvation that God in all of His wisdom has had in His heart from all eternity is unfolding.

However even though this is God's eternal plan it in no way relieves any of the participants in this event of their fault in it. This was a blatant sin against God and those who are involved are doing exactly what they want to do.

I know I have mentioned this several times in the last few messages but just because God's sovereign plan is being accomplished it in no way relieves a person of their responsibility for their actions. They were guilty of the blood of Christ just as we are guilty of our sin.

I hope, and I believe the Scriptures confirm, that some of the ones on this night later came to a saving knowledge of Christ. However on this night they could have cared less about Him and only desired to destroy Him and rid themselves of Him. And even later their anger against Jesus became such that it produced a frenzy of hatred resulting in physical abuse that is beyond our ability to completely understand.

Now I have given much consideration as to how to properly present this message to you today. Since I'm not using just one Gospel account but rather the sum of the whole of all four writers, I can't actually do a complete exposition of the Scriptures. However I do want to walk through, if you will, the events of that night of darkness so we will be able to see the process of what our Lord experienced before being taken to Pontus Pilate later for a sentence of death. A timeline if you will for lack of a better term.

Now Jesus is arrested in the garden and immediately afterwards He is taken to the home of the High Priest Annas. (Jn. 18:12-13) Later on He would be taken to the sitting High Priest who was a man named Caiaphas, then to Pilate, then to Herod, then back to Pilate, then to the soldiers, and finally back to Pilate again.

Now it bears saying that when Jesus left the garden He was already physically exhausted from the events that took place there. Remember He is the Man who is God. He was not allowed to rest at all during the night or into the next day. He is never alone during that period of time plus he suffers horrendous physical abuse, even before He gets to Pilate. There is no record of Him having any food or even given any water during this entire time.

Things we want to see about this "trial.

- 1) This event was a fulfillment of OT prophecy concerning the Messiah.
- 2) This is an illegal trial and should have never been allowed to take place.
- 3) That all the "witnesses" against Jesus were liars and perjurers.
- 4) The majesty and glory of our Lord Jesus Christ dominates this event.

1) THIS EVENT WAS A FULFILLMENT OF OT PROPHECY CONCERNING THE MESSIAH:

We can find the overall details of the portrait of God's Suffering Servant in the text of Isaiah chapter 53. In the text of this chapter we can see that the events of the night of Jesus' arrest and trial are laid out in astonishing accuracy by a Prophet who lived over 700 years before the time of Christ.

While names and details of the people involved are not in the text of the Prophet the overall purpose and even the descriptions of His sufferings are detailed here. No one in history has ever come close to fulfilling this prophecy except the Lord Jesus Christ.

Vs.3 He was despised and forsaken of men, A man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; And like one from whom men hide their face He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.

Surly we see this prophecy fulfilled on this night as the sorrows of our Lord are multiplied and as His own disciples have deserted Him and left Him alone to suffer indignities before His accusers without any support or help from them or anyone. Even the thousands that had benefited from Him ministry and healing hand are nowhere to be found. Surly they had hidden their faces from Him.

Vs.4 Surely our griefs He Himself bore, And our sorrows He carried; Yet we ourselves esteemed Him stricken, Smitten of God, and afflicted.

In this text we understand that everything that Jesus will endure on this night and the following day are not for His benefit but for ours. He carried OUR sorrows and OUR griefs, not His own, making HIM the Man of Sorrows.

Notice in this verse that He was smitten of God. Have you ever realized that His tormentors on this night and the next day could do anything to Him they desired except for one thing, and that was they could not release Him. Because He wasn't smitten of men He was smitten of God!

Vs.10a But the LORD was pleased To crush Him, putting Him to grief....

Vs.6b But the LORD has caused the iniquity of us all To fall on Him.

Romans 8:32a He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all.....

From Jesus' own mouth:

Matthew 26:54 "How then will the Scriptures be fulfilled, which say that it must happen this way?"

So this is God's business and what is taking place here on this holy night is pleasing to God.

O the depths of the love of God in Christ Jesus who can begin to measure it?

Romans 11:29 Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways!

Beloved it is God Who has delivered the Lord Jesus Christ up. And it is God in Whom our Lord had placed His trust and Who will see to His will through this entire ordeal.

2) THIS IS AN ILLEGAL TRIAL THAT SHOULD HAVE NEVER BEEN ALLOWED TO TAKE PLACE:

I think that it's important to take a moment and see how the trial is supposed to be done in order to see how badly the principles of justice were violated and how unfair these proceedings were conducted.

At the very beginning it is necessary to understand what the Scriptures say about a trial that was held by a Jewish Council, Judges, or the Sanhedrin.

If a trial was to take place there were specific guidelines that are laid out in the Scripture for conducting such an event. And actually the Jewish people had always prided themselves as being a fair and just people when it came to judicial trials. Actually a great deal of our modern day judicial procedures is patterned after their system of justice.

Listen to what the Scriptures have to say about this:

Deuteronomy 16:18-20

18 *"You shall appoint for yourself judges and officers in all your towns which the LORD your God is giving you, according to your tribes, and they shall judge the people with righteous judgment.*

19 *"You shall not distort justice; you shall not be partial, and you shall not take a bribe, for a bribe blinds the eyes of the wise and perverts the words of the righteous. **20** "Justice, and only justice, you shall pursue, that you may live and possess the land which the LORD your God is giving you.*

This is how trials were supposed to be done in Jerusalem and in all of Israel. The Councils were made up either locally in communities that had at least 120 men who were heads of families. These local Councils were generally composed of 23 members. These Councils came to be known as Sanhedrin.

The word Sanhedrin simply means to "sit together".

There was also the Great Sanhedrin in Jerusalem that was made up of 70 Chief Priests, Elders, and Scribes and one High Priest which made up a total of 71 members. This was set up this way, similar to our 9 member Supreme Court, to prevent a tie vote on any issue.

When a person was accused of a crime they had the right to a defense council, a public trial, and conviction was only possible with the testimony of two reliable witnesses whose testimony was from experience and not based on hearsay. ****Note:** If a witness gave false testimony in a trial and was found out their punishment would be the same as the person convicted.

The defendant had the right to call witnesses and bring forth evidence in their own defense as well as having the trial open to the public during the daylight hours for further fairness.

If a sentence of death was imposed on the person convicted the law required a three day waiting period when the judges were too fast and reconsider the case. This would be impossible at the time of the festival because fasting was not allowed.

All of these things were supposed to take place to insure a system of fairness and accountability. However the Jewish system and the Sanhedrin had become so corrupt that many of the rules of law were no longer observed.

Nothing of this or even anything remotely close to this took place on the night that the Lord Jesus was arrested and tried. Every rule of protocol was disregarded on that night.

Jesus was illegally tried without first being charged.

He was tried at night and in private.

He was extended no defense council.

The witnesses against Him were bribed and were liars and their testimony was not consistent.

He was executed on the same day that He was "convicted".

All of this was hastily put together because the Jewish leaders were not expecting to deal with this at this time.

Matthew 26:1-5:

1 When Jesus had finished all these words, He said to His disciples, 2 "You know that after two days the Passover is coming, and the Son of Man is to be handed over for crucifixion." 3 Then the chief priests and the elders of the people were gathered together in the court of the high priest, named Caiaphas ; 4 and they plotted together to seize Jesus by stealth and kill Him. 5 But they were saying, "Not during the festival, otherwise a riot might occur among the people."

But man's time isn't God's time and man's will isn't God's Will so by the providence of God according to His plan the situation was presented to the Jews during the festival and they acted on it.

Have you ever stopped to think that God in His Wisdom put the Lord Jesus on trial and He was publically crucified when the most people would be in the city of Jerusalem?

And the Jewish leaders; they wanted to make sure that His trial was held in secret because of the illegality of it but when it came time to kill Him they were happy to do it in a very public manner.

There is no comparison in all of history to the hypocrisy and evilness of heart that was on display during this time. We know and think that the horrible sin of abortion is the blackest sin in our country and during our lifetime but even that pales in comparison to this great miscarriage of justice that was perpetrated on our Blessed Lord Jesus Christ.

JESUS TAKEN FROM PLACE TO PLACE:

Now after His arrest Jesus was first taken to the home of a man named Annas. Annas had been High Priest for 5-6 years but he was not currently the sitting High Priest. Annas had five sons and one grandson who was High Priest and the current sitting High Priest was his son-in-law, Caiaphas. So Annas had a fairly firm grip on things pertaining to the Sanhedrin and still had tremendous influence over their actions.

Note: Although he was not the sitting High Priest he was still entitled to the title of High Priest; similar to a former President still being entitled to be called "Mr. President".

Annas also was a very wealthy man who had gotten extremely rich from his control of the Temple merchants and the "sacrifice sellers". I doubt that any of them could do business unless they agreed to give Annas a part of their profits. (Does this not remind us of the modern day Health & Wealth Crowd?)

And this fact would be the basis of his extreme hatred of the Lord Jesus.

Mark 11:15-18a:

15 Then they came to Jerusalem. And He entered the temple and began to drive out those who were buying and selling in the temple, and overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of

those who were selling doves ; **16** and He would not permit anyone to carry merchandise through the temple. **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." **18** The chief priests and the scribes heard this, and began seeking how to destroy Him;

John 2:13-19: (This was the first time prior to Mark 11):

13 The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. **14** And He found in the temple those who were selling oxen and sheep and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. **15** And He made a scourge of cords, and drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and the oxen ; and He poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables ; **16** and to those who were selling the doves He said, "Take these things away ; stop making My Father's house a place of business." **17** His disciples remembered that it was written, "ZEAL FOR YOUR HOUSE WILL CONSUME ME." **18** The Jews then said to Him, "What sign do You show us as your authority for doing these things?" **19** Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up."

So Annas may have instructed the arresting officials to bring Jesus to him first because he wanted to question Him before Caiaphas and the rest of the Sanhedrin got Him. He could do this because of his influence and the probable bribes that he regularly made to the Roman officials.

Also it seems that after Jesus was delivered to Annas the Roman soldiers left because they are not mentioned again until the next day when Jesus is taken to Pilate.

So Jesus was taken first to the home of the High Priest named Annas. And at the house of Annas the questions and the physical abuse began.

Now one note here: (Turn to John 18)

There is some difference of opinion among some of the commentators about whether the text in John 18 just states that Jesus was taken to Annas or if He was actually interrogated by him.

John is the writer who tells of this event but it seems that his placement of the denials of Peter is where the question comes in because the other Gospel writers place Peter's denials within the context of Jesus being at the house of Caiaphas.

Matthew and Mark tell of Peter's denials after they write about Jesus before Caiaphas and the Sanhedrin and Luke gives the account of Peter's denials prior to writing about Jesus before Caiaphas and the Sanhedrin.

In the narrative (John 18:12-24) he states that Jesus was taken to Annas in vs. 12-13, then he makes a general statement about Caiaphas in vs. 14, and then beginning in vs. 15 through vs. 18 he tells of Peter's first denial, the second and third coming in vs. 25-27.

To me however after studying the text of John and the other Gospel writers I believe that vs. 12-14 and vs. 19-24 of John 18 is the account of Jesus before Annas prior to going to Caiaphas.

John does not mention anything about Jesus before Caiaphas and the Sanhedrin.

So I think that John has just inserted the narrative about Peter's denials into the text at the point he did because that is where he probably wanted to put it.

Also if you'll notice in the account of John that when Jesus is before Annas:

- 1) The questions are different than when He is in front of Caiaphas and the Sanhedrin. Annas asked Him a general question about His teachings and about His disciples. The Sanhedrin did not ask Him about His disciples and their question to Him was "Are you the Son of God or The Blessed One".
- 2) There is no mention of witnesses.
- 3) Slapping and spitting are not recorded here as is not the fact that He was blindfolded. Mark & Luke state that Jesus was blindfolded and Matthew insinuates it in 26:68.
- 4) No mention of the Roman soldiers in the Synoptic accounts.
- 5) It is stated in John 18:24, after the above events, that Annas sent Jesus to Caiaphas.

So I think there are two interrogations that night; One before Annas and one before Caiaphas and the Sanhedrin.

The final thing I think indicates that Jesus was interrogated before Annas and that John's text indicates this is that in vs. 24 of chapter 18 we read; *"So Annas sent Him bound to Caiaphas the high priest"*.

Here is where Jesus was taken on this night:

- 1) To Annas.
- 2) To Caiaphas & the Sanhedrin.
- 3) To Pilate.
- 4) To Herod.
- 5) Back to Pilate.
- 6) The soldiers in the Praetorium.
- 7) Back to Pilate a third time.

So Jesus was brought to the home of Annas and he immediately wanted to know about Jesus' teaching and His disciples.

Jesus' answer (John 18:15-21)

19 The high priest then questioned Jesus about His disciples, and about His teaching. **20** Jesus answered him, "I have spoken openly to the world; I always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where all the Jews come together; and I spoke nothing in secret. **21** "Why do you question Me? Question those who have heard what I spoke to them; they know what I said."

Questioned (er-o-tah'-o) = to beg, request, entreat, implore, or beseech.

Two root words: 1) to speak; 2) to search or examine. IOW a very probing search.

Used by Paul in Romans 8:27 "He who searches the heart knows the Mind of the Spirit...."

So the question to Jesus from Annas was not necessarily presented in an arrogant manner possibly because Annas wanted to seem just and fair because of the other people standing around. He was nothing of the sort though because he was a scoundrel of the highest order and cared nothing at all for Jesus or what He stood for. He also possibly thought that he could con Jesus.

He only cared because of the fact that Jesus' actions and teachings were causing him trouble and if He was allowed to continue He could completely put Annas out of business, so to speak.

Here I think we need to keep in mind what Paul wrote in Philippians 2:5-8.

"Have this mind in yourself that was also in Christ Jesus....."

There are a few things to notice about the Jesus' response to Annas:

- 1) First His response was calm, clear, and what He wanted to say not what Annas wanted to hear.
- 2) Second Jesus tells Annas that He had spoken openly and many witnesses could attest to His teachings and what He had said. (He had many witnesses unlike what He is allowed now.)
- 3) He said that He had spoken "openly" which would be a direct assault on the present proceedings.
- 4) He had no problem with anyone who heard Him speaking about what He had said because He was always truthful and everything that He said was consistent, (Unlike His present accusers).
- 5) He did not address Annas' question about His disciples. He completely ignored it (Good Shepherd).
- 6) Our Lord was not arrogant in His answer but courteous and plain.

Now we see the first recorded incident of physical abuse.

John 18:22-24:

22 When He had said this, one of the officers standing nearby struck Jesus, saying, "Is that the way You answer the high priest?" 23 Jesus answered him, "If I have spoken wrongly, testify of the wrong; but if rightly, why do you strike Me?" 24 So Annas sent Him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.

The KJV says that He was struck with the palm of the hand. IOW He was slapped on the face by the officer.

Struck (did'-o-mee) = The word simply means to give someone something (such as a gift).

Giving someone a gift generally causes the person who it giving it great satisfaction. I would imagine that that was the case with this. Later on in the evening our Lord will endure worse than this at the great satisfaction of those who would torment Him.

A slap with the palm of one's hand was considered to be a great indignity. A punch with a fist is one thing but a slap with the open hand is not only causing someone pain but also the highest sign of disrespect one could give.

However again our Lord's conduct after the slap shows His glory and His willingness to endure what His Father had sent Him for.

Jesus word "strike" = Der'-o: to beat, flay, skin, thrash, smite. (A very different word than "struck".)

Used in Acts 5:40 to describe the flogging of the disciples.

Isaiah 50:6

I gave My back to those who strike Me, And My cheeks to those who pluck out the beard ; I did not cover My face from humiliation and spitting.

1 Peter 2: 21-23

21 For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps, **22** WHO COMMITTED NO SIN, NOR WAS ANY DECEIT FOUND IN HIS MOUTH; **23** and while being reviled, He did not revile in return; while suffering, He uttered no threats, but kept entrusting Himself to Him who judges righteously.

After this Annas sent Him bound to Caiaphas.

What you see here is complete frustration on the part of Annas, who stood by and did not rebuke the officer for slapping Jesus, because he could not get Jesus to incriminate Himself or even give him the answer that he wanted.

Quite a change in attitude from a few minutes earlier when he was civil in his question to Jesus.

All the time Annas has Jesus at his home is giving Caiaphas time to gather the Priests, Elders, and members of the Sanhedrin to deal with Jesus.

So He's taken away again to Caiaphas and the Sanhedrin. And what awaits Him is far worse than what He has just endured.

See beloved "The Man Who Is God"!

He suffers as a Man, He knows as God. And everything in front of Him is not hidden from His face.

Importance of knowing Christ.

Amen