

Series: The Trials of Jesus  
"The First Trial" Pt. 1, # 1  
2-18-18 Sun AM  
John 18:12-18

This morning we begin a six week series leading up to the crucifixion on Good Friday [preparation day] and the resurrection on Sunday morning.

The **six mock trials** or kangaroo court is divided into 3 religious trials and 3 civil trials. The trials started at 2:00 am on Good Friday..

The **religious trials** by the Jews consisted of his presence before Annas, Caiaphas, and the Sanhedrin. He was found guilty in these trials. The **civil trials** by the Romans consisted of his presence before Pilate, Herod Antipas, and Pilate again. None of these mock trials were legal!

**TT-** Today we examine the arraignment before Annas and the denials of Peter. This began about 2:00 am and went till 2:30 am and is recorded in all four gospels.

### **I. First Part of the First Trial before Annas [18:12-14].**

**v. 12:** The arresting party consisted of the temple guard and Romans soldiers who bound Jesus.

**v. 13:** We are introduced to Annas.

This arraignment is only recorded by John and is the first of three phases of the religious trials before Jewish leaders.

The second phase was before Caiaphas at night in the other gospel accounts. The third was after sunrise the next morning before the Sanhedrin.

Annas was no longer the high priest but was a powerful man (A.D. 6 to A.D. 15) He was removed from office by the Roman authorities (example of a former president).

Two interesting insights here:

1. Many Jews regarded Annas as the legitimate high priest.
2. Annas had 5 sons and one grandson who served as high priest. He was the father-in-law of the present high priest Caiaphas.

Who was this man?

1. He was an arrogant greedy man who benefited from the temple tax and sale of sacrificial animals from the money changers.

2. He hated Jesus who twice disrupted his business by cleansing the temple. No wonder he wanted to have Jesus first. Sounds like your run of the mill politician!
3. He presided over an illegal preliminary examination with trumped up charges. It was an unauthorized inquiry at the home of the high priest with no charges.

**v. 14:** We see a parenthetical note.

This incident refers to what is recorded in John 11:49-52. Caiaphas was appointed high priest in A.D. 18 and remained in office till A.D. 36 when he was removed as well.

You can see why the rulers were so eager and willing to kill Jesus to maintain their positions appointed by Rome. While in custody we move to Peter's first denial.

**John 11:49-52**, And one of them, named Caiaphas, being the high priest that same year, said unto them, Ye know nothing at all, (50) Nor consider that it is expedient for us, that one man should die for the people, and that the whole nation perish not. (51) And this spake he not of himself: but being high priest that year, he prophesied that Jesus should die for that nation; (52) And not for that nation only, but that also he should gather together in one the children of God that were scattered abroad.

God sovereignly placed him in office during the year foreordained for Christ's death. We vote and He puts people into office to unknowingly carry out his will.

## **II. Peter's First Denial [18:15-18].**

Except for Peter and John, all scattered at this time. Peter was brought into the court by the door-keeper who was a woman (Note v. 18).

Let's read the account and I want to make a few comments about denying Christ.

1. Peter's multiple denials are a warning to all who feel self-confident that they would follow Jesus no matter what and no matter where.
2. Boasting in our abilities is an invitation to fail.
3. Denying Christ is a progressive downward fall over time.
5. Neglect of prayer and obedience to God's Word begins the fall.
6. Our mouth and our actions should match. What we profess and practice should not contradict.

Tonight we go back inside and finish his first trial with Annas and examine Peter's 2nd and 3rd denial going on outside.