

Series: The Trials of Jesus  
"The First Trial" Pt. 2, # 1  
2-18-18 Sun PM  
John 18:19-27

This morning we began 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!

**This morning-**

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

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

**Tonight-**

**III. Second Part of First Trial before Annas (18:19-24).**

The trial before Annas skips from v. 13 to v. 19. You had the interlude of Peter's first denial in (18:15-18).

1. v. 19- The Question.

Annas asked Jesus about his disciples and His doctrine. They wanted to make Jesus look like a schemer who worked secretly to usurp Rome.

The Religious trials were not seeking truth because the verdict was predetermined already [John 11:49-53].

This interrogation before Annas was more on a fishing expedition for information to justify a crime for the death sentence which was already predetermined.

2. vs. 20-21- The Answer.

Jesus had no secret plan or hidden agenda. He openly preached the gospel of the kingdom without fear or favor. He claimed to be the Messiah plainly and clearly.

Jesus here was calling on Annas to call the accusers and witnesses and determine if there was enough evidence to bring a charge.

**Q-** Can you repeat to the world what we teach on Sundays and Wednesdays?

3. vs. 22-24- The Embarrassment.

Because Jesus had a gotcha moment, one of the temple guard struck Jesus with his hand. To strike a prisoner not accused of a crime that was illegal.

They did the same to Paul in Acts 23:2-5 but he responded differently. You need to read to contrast with Paul and Jesus!

**1 Peter 2:23**, "Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously:

Note v. 23 where Jesus states if he was wrong about the legal aspects of his trial they should have corrected him instead of striking him. If he spoke accurately, what justified hitting him.

Truth is offensive and intolerable. When the truth and facts are not on your side, you attack the person. That's what politicians and lawyers do, try to discredit the opposition!

**v. 24-** Annas then sends Jesus to Caiaphas which Matthew records. Meanwhile outside we see Peter's 2nd and 3rd denial.

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

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

**III. Second Part of First Trial before Annas (18:19-24).**

**IV. Peter's 2nd and 3rd Denial (18:25-27).**

Peter's first denial is recorded in 18:15-17 with the damsel at Annas' house. While warming himself by a fire outside with the very ones who arrested Jesus, Peter makes his 2nd and 3rd denial.

He denied Jesus to the crowd and to one of the kin of Malchus. The gospel accounts record two important events.

1. The rooster crowed as Jesus predicted.
2. Luke records that Jesus turned to look at Peter and Peter went out and wept bitterly.

You can see Peter moving into a place of temptation and sin by hanging out with the ungodly. He should have fled after the 2nd denial but he remained at the fire.

**Psalm 1:1**, "Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.

Let me remind you about what we can learn from Peter.

1. Peter's multiple denials are a warning to all who feel self-confident.
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.
7. Our failures are a chance to repent and be restored.

**Luke 22:31-32**, And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat: (32) But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren.