



John 11:47-50 (NIV) - Then the chief priests and the Pharisees called a meeting of the Sanhedrin. “What are we accomplishing?” they asked. “Here is this man performing many signs. If we let him go on like this, everyone will believe in him, and then the Romans will come and take away both our temple and our nation.” Then one of them, named Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, spoke up, “You know nothing at all! You do not realize that it is better for you that one man die for the people than that the whole nation perish.”

Acts 2:23 (NIV) - This man was handed over to you by God’s deliberate plan and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross.

Trial #1 – Irregular and unauthorized interrogation at Annas’ house. (2:00am)

The mob boss, Annas, operated the Jerusalem money laundering system that was corrupt to the core.

Trial #2 – Illegal trial at Caiaphas’s house. (3:00am)

Caiaphas gathered the Sanhedrin kangaroo court to trump up charges that led to Jesus’ execution.

Without court representation, Jesus was roughed up with spit to the face, a punch to the gut and a strike across the face.

Trial #3 – Formal, but illegal, meeting of the Sanhedrin to confirm a death sentence. (6:00am)

The shortest of the trials, maybe lasting a half hour, to announce the charges of blasphemy leading to Jesus’ execution.

Who Are You Like in Jesus’ Trials?

- Are you the self-assured disciples who say, “I will never leave you.”?
- Are you Jesus facing a battle against the flesh, world and the devil?
- Are you the disciples dozing when you should be praying?
- Are you Peter making your way back to Christ through repentance?
- Are you John staying with Jesus every step along the way?
- Are you Simon of Cyrene willing to carry Jesus’ cross?

THE TRIALS OF JESUS						
Trial	Officiating Authority	Scripture	Accusations	Legality	Type	Result
1	Annas, former high priest AD 6-15	John 18:12-23	No specific charges brought.	Illegal: • No jurisdiction • Held at night • No charges • No witnesses • Abused during trial	Jewish and religious	Found “guilty” of irreverence and sent to Caiaphas.
2	Caiaphas, high priest AD 18-36, and the Sanhedrin	Matthew 26:57-68; Mark 14:53-65; John 18:24	Claimed to be the Messiah, the Son of God, which they deemed blasphemy.	Illegal: • Held at night • False witnesses • No formal charge • Abused during trial	Jewish and religious	Declared “guilty” of blasphemy and held for sentencing until morning.
3	Sanhedrin	Mark 15:1; Luke 22:66-71	As a continuation of the earlier trial before the Sanhedrin, the charges remained the same.	Illegal: • Accusation changed • No witnesses • Improper vote	Jewish and religious	Sentenced to be turned over to Romans for execution.
4	Pilate, governor of Judea AD 26-36	Matthew 27:11-14; Mark 15:2-5; Luke 23:1-7; John 18:28-38	Charged with treason and sedition against Rome.	Illegal: • Found “not guilty,” yet kept in custody • No defense representation • Abused during trial	Roman and civil	Declared “not guilty” and pawned off on Herod Antipas to find a loophole.
5	Herod Antipas, governor of Galilee 4 BC-AD 39	Luke 23:8-12	No specific charges brought. Questioned at length by Herod.	Illegal: • No jurisdiction • No specific charges representation • Abused during trial	Roman and civil	Mistreated, mocked, falsely accused, and returned to Pilate without a decision made.
6	Pilate	Matthew 27:15-26; Mark 15:6-15; Luke 23:13 25; John 18:39-19:16	As a continuation of the earlier trial before Pilate, the charges remained the same.	Illegal: • Declared “not guilty,” yet condemned	Roman and civil	Declared “not guilty” but sentenced to be crucified to mollify the angry mob. Simultaneously, a man guilty of murder, treason, and sedition was released.



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