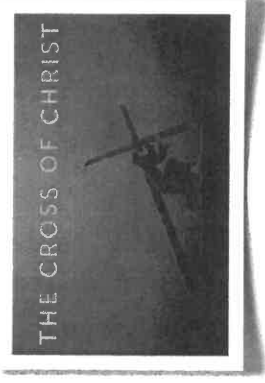


**Lesson:** Two Hundred Fifty-One  
**Series:** The Cross of Christ  
**Title:** Jesus On Trial, Part 1  
**Text:** Matthew 26:57-61  
**Date:** May 16, 2021



A. In His \_\_\_\_\_.

B. In His \_\_\_\_\_.

C. In the \_\_\_\_\_.

### Discussion Guide

1. In reviewing Israel's ancient jurisprudence, can you see how far America has degenerated in its judicial system? Share the changes you have seen.
2. According to Deuteronomy 16:20, what outcome does God promise when immoral men hold office? How do you see our current judicial system affecting our country?
3. We learned that God uses evil governments to carry out His will. What impact should that have on our perspective?
4. None of us want to experience injustice. How do you think you will respond if and when you are ever wrongly accused? Would you be willing to speak truth if your life was threatened?

**ANSWERS:** God's, Jewish, Roman, will, love, silence, words, response

### The basis for jurisprudence.

Deuteronomy 16:18-20 "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.

"righteous judgment"

"distort justice"

"partial"

"take a bribe"

20 "Justice, and only justice, you shall pursue,

that you may live and possess the land which the Lord your God is giving you.

**The blessing of every society depends on government officials who follow \_\_\_\_\_ standards of jurisprudence.**

**Israel set up careful, detailed checks and balances.**

The main body of government after the Babylonian captivity was the Sanhedrin.

Local councils of the Sanhedrin were composed of 23 members

The Great Sanhedrin in Jerusalem was composed of 70 chief priests, elders, scribes with the high priest making the total 71.

The members were carefully chosen for their maturity and wisdom.

The requirements of fairness and impartiality prescribed in Deut 16 were held tightly.

An accused criminal had the right to a public trial and open to public scrutiny.

They always had the right to a defense counsel.

The defendant had the right to bring forth evidence and witnesses on his own behalf.

Any conviction had to be on the testimony of two very reliable witnesses.

The integrity of those witnesses was extremely important.

Deuteronomy 19:16–19 “If a malicious witness rises up against a man to accuse him of wrongdoing, 17 then both the men who have the dispute shall stand before the Lord, before the priests and the judges who will be in office in

Dan. 7:13; Ps. 110:1

65 Then the high priest tore his robes and said, “He has blasphemed!

What further need do we have of witnesses? Behold, you have now heard the blasphemy;

66 what do you think?” They answered, “He deserves death!”

67 Then they spat in His face and beat Him with their fists; and others slapped Him, 68 and said, “Prophecy to us, You Christ; who is the one who hit You?”

**Implications**

1. God uses evil, unjust governments to fulfill His

\_\_\_\_\_.

2. Against the black backdrop of wicked injustice we see the Lord's redemptive \_\_\_\_\_.

Him to death. 60 They did not find any, even though many false witnesses came forward.

Why did the Sanhedrin proceed with trials?

But later on two came forward, 61 and said, "This man stated, 'I am able to destroy the temple of God and to rebuild it in three days.' "

**What Jesus said - John 2:19**

"Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up."

**What was restated - Matt 26:61**

'I am able to destroy the temple of God and to rebuild it in three days.'

62 The high priest stood up and said to Him, "Do You not answer? What is it that these men are testifying against You?"  
63 But Jesus kept silent.

And the high priest said to Him, "I adjure You by the living God, that You tell us whether You are the Christ, the Son of God."

**"by the living God"**

64 Jesus said to him, "You have said it yourself; nevertheless I tell you, hereafter you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of Power, and coming on the clouds of heaven."

those days. 18 "The judges shall investigate thoroughly, and if the witness is a **false witness** and he has accused his brother falsely, 19 then you shall do to him just as he had intended to do to his brother. Thus you shall pursue the evil from among you.

Rabbinical law required no death sentence could be carried out until the 3rd day. And during that time the members of the court were to pray and fast.

Trials for capital punishment could not be held at night nor on the day of or before important feasts such as Passover.

There were also stringent trial procedures.

All the evidence would be read in a full hearing of open court being open to public scrutiny.

None of the evidence could be hearsay. It had to be from one's own personal experience.

Witnesses had to identify the exact month, day, hour and location of the crime.

Those who couldn't testify were women, children, slaves, a person of bad character or those who were considered mentally incompetent.

There was always the presumption of innocence.

If found innocent they were immediately freed.

If found guilty, there was fasting and the verdict was pronounced one day later.

An officer with a flag mounted on horseback would escort

the prisoner to the place of execution. A herald went before the procession declaring the man's name and his crime.

As they marched the accused was urged to confess his wrong. If he did he was given a drink to sedate his senses to make his death less painful.

The overall governing principle of the Sanhedrin was to save life not destroy it.

During the trial the president of the council was required to remind the witnesses of human life and to encourage truthfulness of testimony.

Appointments became based on religious and political favoritism.

The Lord's trials violated every principle of their own system.

The Sanhedrin was to save life - not take it away. Yet these men gathered for the sole purpose of putting Jesus to death

The trial was conducted at night; in private, not in view of public scrutiny and on the passover.

He wasn't allowed to call witnesses in His defense.

They were to judge cases, not prosecute them, but they assumed both roles.

He was accused by false witnesses that deserved to die.

They didn't honor the three day waiting period of prayer

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and fasting.

Trials were only to be held in the temple.

### The trials of Jesus

1. \_\_\_\_\_ / **religious**

Before Annas - John 18:12-14

Before Caiaphas - Matthew 16:57-68

Before the Sanhedrin - Matthew 27:1-2

2. \_\_\_\_\_ / **civil**

Before Pilate - John 18:28-38

Before Herod - Luke 23:6-12

Before Pilate - John 18:39-19:6

Matthew 26:57 Those who had seized Jesus led Him away to Caiaphas, the high priest, where the scribes and the elders were gathered together.

He was taken first to Annas - John 18:3

58 But Peter was following Him at a distance as far as the courtyard of the high priest, and entered in, and sat down with the officers to see the outcome.

59 Now the chief priests and the whole Council kept trying to obtain false testimony against Jesus, so that they might put

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