

Lesson 5

Jesus Is Condemned by the Sanhedrin

Matthew 26:58-27:2, Mark 14:54-15:1, Luke 22:54-23:1 and John 18:12-28

Begin today's lesson asking the Holy Spirit to illumine your mind and to teach you His precepts.

1. What concept from last week's lesson was especially helpful or thought provoking to you?

Read Matthew 26:58-27:2, Mark 14:54-15:1, Luke 22:54-23:1 and John 18:12-28 out loud every day this week.

2. As you read the above verses, what initially strikes you?

The first informal "trial" of Jesus by Annas, recorded in Luke 22:54 and John 18:12-14,19-23, was illegal according to the Jewish law. Not only were the trials not to be held at night, but there were to be no secret trials. The law also stated there must be a defense for the accused, specific charges brought against the accused and at least two witnesses.

3. How did Jesus handle Himself during this illegal interrogation? What do you learn from His demeanor?

Read Matthew 26:58, 69-75, Mark 14:54, 66-72, Luke 22:54-62 and John 18:15-18, 25-27.

4. Describe and discuss Peter's behavior and words in each of his three denials of Christ.

"But He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the chastening for our well-being fell upon Him, and by His scourging we are healed. All of us like sheep have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; but the Lord has caused the iniquity of us all to fall on Him."

Isaiah 53:5-6

5. Peter was ready for “the big stuff,” but was tripped up by a little servant girl. What lessons do you learn from this? How can you prepare yourself for the large and small lessons of life?

Read Matthew 26:57, 59-68, Mark 14:53, 55-65 and John 18:24.

After the informal mock trial by Annas, Jesus, still bound, was sent to Caiaphas, the high priest. The Sanhedrin had assembled. This trial was also illegal: the sun had not yet risen (trials could only occur in the day), and the charges and witnesses had still not been determined.

6. What is the best accusation they could create?
7. Why do you think Jesus remained silent in Matthew 26:62-63 and Mark 14:60-61 when other times He answered His accusers?
8. Finally Jesus gave a definitive answer. What question was asked that elicited this answer, and what was the answer? See Matthew 26:63-64 and Mark 14:62-64.
9. In Matthew 26:64 and Mark 14:62, Jesus referred to a phrase from Daniel that was clearly understood to be speaking of the Messiah. See Daniel 7:13-14. What was the reaction of the high priest when Jesus claimed this and why? What does this mean to you?
10. What was the reaction of the men who were guarding Jesus when He made these claims? See Matthew 26:65-68, Mark 14:63-65 and Luke 22:63-65.
11. Finally, at dawn the Sanhedrin could legally convene to reach an agreement about the fate of the Lord Jesus Christ. It seems this decision was reached rather quickly. Read Matthew 27:1-2, Mark 15:1 and Luke 22:66-23:1. From the Luke passage, what was the essence of their charge against Jesus?

12. Read Psalm 110:1. Why do you think the Sanhedrin believed Jesus worthy of death when Jesus quoted this verse?

Read Matthew 27:3-10 and Acts 1:17-19.

13. When did Judas feel remorse? Why do you think he returned the silver?
14. What do you learn from the response of the chief priests and elders?
15. Compare and contrast the reactions of Peter and Judas to their respective “betrayals” of Christ. See Matthew 26:74-75, Matthew 27:3-10 and Acts 1:17-19.
16. Based on your study this week, what do you think God is teaching you or inviting you to do or be?

Lecture Notes: