

# DISCIPLE'S QUEST

*If you continue in My word, then you are  
truly disciples of Mine.*

John 8:31



**March 19, 2023**  
**Matthew 26:57-75**  
**Trial and Denial**

## **Main Idea:**

The religious trial of Jesus before the Sanhedrin was illegal in every respect. Nevertheless, it yielded the result the chief priests and elders desired – Jesus was wrongly convicted on a trumped up charge of blasphemy and sentenced to death. Meanwhile, during the course of the sham trial, Peter, who had only a few hours earlier sworn that he would die with Jesus, instead collapsed into spiritual failure and denied his Lord three times.

## **Outline:**

1. The wicked conspiracy to murder Jesus (57-59)
2. The illegal trial and prosecution of Jesus (59-65)
3. The crooked conviction and sentencing of Jesus (66-68)
4. Peter's failure and denial (69-74)

## Questions for further contemplation and application after the message:

#1 Wicked religious men schemed up the conspiracy that resulted in Jesus' death sentence, and godless men nailed Him to the cross—but whose plan was it according to Acts 2:23-24?

How would you explain God's purpose for the cross to an unbeliever?

#2 Aside from their hard-hearted jealousy, according to today's message, what motivated Caiaphas and the religious authorities of the Jews to ultimately conspire to murder Jesus?

#3 The Sanhedrin was under ordinary circumstances committed to following the prescribed rules for trials, yet they violated them all when prosecuting Jesus. Why were they willing to do this?

#4 When Caiaphas confronted Jesus with the twisted testimony of the false witnesses in 26:62, He remained silent (v. 63). Why?

#5 In 26:64, Caiaphas placed Jesus under oath and demanded that He tell them whether He was the Christ, the Son of God. What is the significance of Jesus' answer (v. 65)?

#6 What missteps had Peter taken in the hours leading up to his collapse in 26:69-74 that set him up for failure?

Select helpful resources:

Carson, D.A. Matthew Vol.2 (Ch 13 –28), The Expositor's Bible Commentary. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1995.

France, R.T. The Gospel of Matthew, The New International Commentary on the New Testament. Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 2007.

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Swindoll, Charles R. Swindoll's Living Insights New Testament Commentary, Volume 1B. Tyndale House, 2020.

Toussant, Stanley. Behold the King – A Study of Matthew. Grand Rapids: Kregel, 1980.

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