

Juxtaposition = Two things placed side-by-side for comparison highlight contrasts between the two

Tale of Two Cities – French Revolution = Injustice & Consequences – Sacrifice & Redemption

It was the best of times, it was the worst of times | It was the age of wisdom, It was the age of foolishness

It was the epoch of belief, It was the epoch of incredulity | It was the season of Light, It was the season of Darkness

It was the spring of hope, It was the winter of despair | We had everything before us, We had nothing before us

We were all going direct to Heaven, We were all going direct the other way

Today instead of 'A Tale of Two Cities' – We have... 'A Tale of Two Trials'

a. An innocent person is tried by the guilty | b. A guilty person is tried innocently

Greatest Trial in History: Biggert than - Watgate – Bill Clinton - OJ - Will Smith | God's on Trial

• Jesus (Defendant) | Religious Elite (Plaintiffs) | High Priest (Judge) | Judas (Testimony purchased)

○ Witnesses (Corrupt) | Evidence (Fabricated) | The Proceedings are illegal | The case is capitol

Greatest Trial in History...Represents the Greatest Injustice In History...Thank God for it

Big Idea – The Road to Resurrection Reminds Believers we're justified by Christ | READ

i. Trial #1 – Jesus Was Innocent (53-65) Jesus 6x – 3 Jewish – Annas – San – FC | 3x Roman: PHP

• This: Sanhedrin = 71 – High Priest (Powerful) – Moral & Religious Law (**DEUT.16:18-20**) | **HOUSE**

○ Illegal: Sabbath – Festival | Sundown | Initiate...adjudicate | Mistreatment | False witnesses

Kangaroo Court – Mock court which the principles of law and justice are disregarded or perverted

(55) **Now the chief priests and the whole counsel were seeking testimony against Jesus to put him to death**

• Seeking – Trying to find something hidden...**'You got anything?'** | **'but they found none'** | **Plant**

(56) **For many bore false witness against him, but their testimony did not agree.**

The brokenness of the Jewish Religious System is on Full Display

• Why: Urgency? Pride | Deception? Power | Violence? Hatred | FEAR = Jesus threatened - **SAME**

How find Jesus guilty & unworthy of believing? Same today | 3 strategies wickedness to discredit

a) Warped His Words (57-61a) ⁵⁷And some stood up and bore false witness against him, saying, ⁵⁸"We heard him say, 'I will destroy this temple that is made with hands, and in three days I will build another, not made with hands.'" ⁵⁹Yet even about this their testimony did not agree.

• **Cancel Culture Rewriting History** – Jesus said that three years earlier | (**John 2:19**) | **BODY**

○ **Using that to convict him as a terrorist against the temple** | **Warped His Words**

Similar to when people take the Word out of Context today to condemn Christianity

• **Condone Slavery – Polygamy – Hatred people group** | Wickedness Warping Keep From Christ

Taking the Word out of Context and Arriving at Inappropriate and Dangerous Conclusions

⁵⁹Yet even about this their testimony did not agree. The high priest stood up in the midst and asked Jesus, "Have you no answer to make? What is it that these men testify against you?" But he remained silent and made no answer.

• **Isaiah 53:7** | Made up their minds | No Reply Necessary: Integrity – Innocence – Tranquility | **2nd**

b) Ignored His Warning (61b-64)

Again the high priest asked him, "Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?" | (x2) Messiah – Son of God

The Sheep is no longer silent before it's shearers – bombshell – The next words will bring His death

⁶²And Jesus said, "I am, and you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power, and coming with the clouds of heaven." | Combining Psalm 110 = Messianic Prophecy & Daniel 7 = Apocalyptic Prophecy

• I am the promised Messiah & I am the chosen one of God – Right Hand of Power | Clouds

I'm letting you judge me now, this world...There will be a day when you stand before Me in judgment

⁶³And the high priest tore his garments and said, "What further witnesses do we need? ⁶⁴You have heard his blasphemy. What is your decision?" And they all condemned him as deserving death.

• Ignored the warning...Be Judged | We will all stand in judgment...don't ignore the warning | **3rd**

c) Despised His Work (65) ⁶⁵And some began to spit on him and to cover his face and to strike him, saying to him, "Prophesy!" And the guards received him with blows. Mocking – 'Prophesy'...**Same today**

Juxtaposition - hatred & humility | Appalling & Audacious | Phenomenal Power & Unparalleled Restraint

Greatest Trial – Injustice – Plan...Grace offered to those...Warped – Ignored – Despised

i. Trial #1 – Jesus Was innocent...but He was found guilty **Innocent person tried by the guilty**

Road to cross paved injustice...God found guilty blaspheming God...Sinners condemned the sinless

ii. Trial #2 – Peter Was Guilty (53, 66-72)

Peter (Defendant) – Servant Girl (Accuser) – God (Judge) – Evidence & Testimony = Incriminating

• Peter = Genuine Believer – Loves the Lord – Left – Followed – Heeded – Witnessed – Embraced

○ He's the only Disciple to even come this far on the night of betrayal...**courtyard high priest**

No one is more vocal about loving Jesus that Peter...yet...he denied Jesus – Guilty | Three ways denial

a) Followed too far away (54a)

⁵⁴And Peter had followed him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest. And he was sitting with the guards and warming himself at the fire.

Followed at a distance – | **Back** | **Close enough to watch his savior...not so close to wager his safety**

• Being a disciple of Christ...isn't to be far away...it's to be as close as you can get

Gladiator – Maximus | Marcus Aurelius | Commodus – 'Did I miss it...battle' – 'Missed the war'

• **The greatest warriors are closest to the king...where the fighting is most furious**

Proximity is directly proportionate to blessing and usefulness

• **I feel distant from the Lord...He hasn't gone anywhere – You need to move...move closer | 2nd**

b) Desired too much comfort (54b) 'Warming himself at the fire'

• Is it wrong to be warm? No...this was the wrong fire at the wrong time

○ Jesus on other side of the wall...giving up everything...Peter is unwilling to sacrifice anything

There's a correlation to Christianity and sacrifice that cannot be avoided biblically

Greek word for 'Witness' – Martureó = Martyr from...most powerful witnesses

'Blood of the martyrs is the seed of the church' – Tertullian AD 160 – Martyrs more powerful after death

The call on a Christian is one to come and die...death over denial – Puts our comforts in context | 3rd

c) Blended in too well (66-71)

⁶⁶And as Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant girls of the high priest came, ⁶⁷and seeing Peter warming himself, she looked at him and said, "You also were with the Nazarene, Jesus." ⁶⁸But he denied it, saying, "I neither know nor understand what you mean." And he went out into the gateway and the rooster crowed. ⁶⁹And the servant girl saw him and began again to say to the bystanders, "This man is one of them." ⁷⁰But again he denied it. And after a little while the bystanders again said to Peter, "Certainly you are one of them, for you are a Galilean." ⁷¹But he began to invoke a curse on himself and to swear, "I do not know this man of whom you speak."

• Warming himself with the guards – Trying to pass as one of them

○ Young Slave Girl – Aren't you a disciple of the Nazarene Jesus – Denied it

• He moved away and she started to get some public support – You're a disciple – Again...denied it

• Now the crowd is starting to get hostile and turn up the heat...Galilean...Disciple

'But he began to invoke a curse on himself and to swear' - I swear to God...curse me if I'm lying

• **I'm too busy to pray – I deny that God's the center of my life**

• **I neglect Your Word – I deny that God is competent to guide me**

• **I miss church regularly – I deny that God's bride takes precedent to my priorities**

• **I don't give out of my abundance - I deny that God is sufficient to meet my needs**

We like Peter say in our actions or with our heart - 'I do not know this man of whom you speak'

Peter was guilty – The prophecy was fulfilled...he had denied the Lord three times...

⁷²And immediately the rooster crowed a second time. And Peter remembered how Jesus had said to him, "Before the rooster crows twice, you will deny me three times." | **Look...as he denied...there was a look**

• **Luke 22:61 'The Lord turned and looked at Peter. And Peter remembered...broke down and wept bitterly'**

○ It doesn't say...dissatisfaction – disgust – disappointment | Sympathetic Understanding

Peter thought he needed to die for Jesus – Understands...Jesus has to die for him

ii. Trial #2 - Peter was guilty...he is found innocent **This is the core of understanding justification**

Jesus was innocent, and he was found guilty – Peter was guilty, and he is found innocent (*explain*)

• Juxtaposition – Tale of Two Trials | Injustice and Consequences – Sacrifice and Redemption

Greatest Trial in History...Represents the Greatest Injustice In History

The greatest injustice in history = Jesus was held accountable for my sin...thank God for it