



# The Trial of Jesus

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Who Built the Case?

# The Big Idea

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- Jesus wasn't rejected randomly.
- He was rejected intentionally.

# The Key Players

## Pharisees:

- Experts in the Law, deeply committed to strict obedience
- Lay leaders—not priests
- Believed holiness = careful rule-keeping.
- Highly respected by the Jewish people.

## Why Jesus threatened them:

- He challenged their interpretation of the Law
- He exposed their hypocrisy (Matthew 23)
- People started following Him instead of them

# The Key Players

## Sadducees:

- Priestly, wealthy elite
- Controlled temple operations and sacrifices

## Why Jesus threatened them:

- He disrupted the Temple system (money changers, authority)
- His influence could destabilize their power
- Roman retaliation could cost them everything

# The Key Players

## Chief Priests/Sanhedrin:

- The ruling religious council (including the Sadducees)
- Responsible for maintaining order under Roman rule

## Why Jesus threatened them:

- Fear of an uprising – would lead to Roman crackdown
- Loss of authority and control
- Preserving “the nation” –see John 11:50

# The Key Players

## Scribes/Teachers of the Law:

- Interpreters of scripture
- Often aligned with the Pharisees

## Why Jesus threatened them:

- He taught with authority—*without their training*
- He reinterpreted Scripture in ways that challenged them.

# Evidence 1: “Blasphemy”

Mark 2: 6-7 – “Who can forgive sins but God alone?”

Charge: He claims divine authority

Reality: He is divine (theological truth)

## Evidence 2: “Lawbreaker”

Mark 3: 1-6 (healing on the Sabbath)

In Mark’s gospel, they started plotting after this.

Charge: Violates the Sabbath law

Reality: He fulfils the Law and reveals its true purpose

## Evidence 3: “Demonic Power”

Matthew 12:24 – “By Beelzebul...he casts out demons.”

Charge: Works for Satan

Reality: He exposed their spiritual blindness and their rejection of God’s work

## Evidence 4: “Threat to Order”

John 11:47-50 “If we let him go on...the Romans will come...”

Charge: Political danger

Reality: Their fear was justified.

# Evidence 5: “Temple Disruption”

Matthew 21: 12-15 – cleansing the temple

Charge: Undermining the religious system

Reality: Jesus was bringing judgement against corruption

## Evidence 6: “Public Influence”

Matthew 21:46 “They feared the crowds...”

Charge: Too influential

Reality: People began to recognize the truth

# “The Formal Plot”

Mark 14: 1-5 “Arrest him by stealth and kill him.”

Charge: Decision was already made

Reality: Outcome was determined before the trial

# “Insider Betrayal”

Luke 22: 3-6

Charge: Opportunity created

Reality: Evil working through human choice

# “False Witnesses”

Matthew 26: 59-60

Charge: Manufactured testimony

Reality: Corrupt process

So...

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They said:

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He's dangerous

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He's breaking the Law

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He's misleading people

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He might cause political trouble

# Theological Anchor

Human Responsibility

Divine Sovereignty

The Tension

- They meant it for evil
- God used it for salvation!

# Why did Jesus allow it?

- John 10: 18