

I. Introduction: The Apostle John presents Jesus as the sinless Savior, though His enemies tried to charge Him with rebellion against Rome so that they might crucify Him.

II. Two Men On Trial (John 18:12-27).

A. Jesus' Trial: Act One (vv. 12-14).

1. Jesus was taken to Annas, the former High Priest, who conducted the preliminary trial because his law experience best suited him to formulate charges against Jesus.

B. Peter's Trial: Act One (vv. 15-18).

1. Peter followed Jesus to the house of Annas, but he kept a casual distance to see what would happen to Jesus. When a slave girl confronted Peter, he denied knowing Jesus.

C. Jesus' Trial: Act Two (vv. 19-24).

1. Annas conducted the preliminary hearing against Jesus, attempting to find charges that he could bring against Jesus concerning His disciples and His teaching.

D. Peter's Trial: Act Two (vv. 25-27).

1. John contrasts the steady and courageous response of Jesus to His enemies with the cowardice of Peter, who denied knowing Jesus two more times.

III. Conclusion: Jesus' enemies put Him on trial, but they were unable to convict Jesus of any crimes, while Peter crumbled under the pressure of his enemies in the courtyard.

Questions About: Two Men On Trial

1. Have you failed Jesus? Has Jesus ever failed you? What does Jesus do with those who fail Him? Can we be forgiven and restored? How was Jesus treated unjustly by the religious leaders?
2. Who was the first person Jesus was brought to after being arrested? (**John 18:12-14**) Why did they bring Him to Annas initially? What had Caiaphas said about Jesus? (**v. 14; John 11:49-52**)
3. Why did Peter follow Jesus? (**v. 15; Luke 22:54**) Who was the other disciple with Peter? (**v. 15**) How did Peter get into Annas' house? (**v. 16**) How did Jesus predict Peter's failure? (**John 13:38**)
4. Who was the first person to confront Peter about his association with Jesus? (**v. 17; Luke 22:56**) Why did Peter deny knowing Jesus? (**v. 17**) What did Peter do after this denial? (**Mark 14:68**)
5. What did Annas question Jesus concerning? (**John 18:19-24**) Why did Jesus tell them to ask others about His teaching? (**vv. 20-21**) Why did they strike Jesus for this statement? (**vv. 22-23**)
6. Since Annas financially benefited from the temple transactions, why did he particularly hate Jesus? (**John 2:13-22; Matt 21:12-13**) How corrupt had the High Priesthood become?
7. What did Peter do the second time he was confronted? (**John 18:25-27**) How did he deny Jesus a third time? (**v. 26; Matt 26:73-74**) What did he do after the rooster crowed? (**Luke 22:61-62**)
8. How did Jesus later restore Peter? (**John 21:15-19**) How did Peter's failure help him? (**Luke 22:32**) How is it good news that Jesus uses failures? What does it tell you about Jesus?

Prayer

1. Pray to Jesus and ask Him to forgive you and to restore you if you have failed Him.
2. Ask Jesus to help you to be faithful to Him and to stand up for Him courageously.