

Matthew 26:47 – Chapter 27

(Read Matt 26: 47-56)

1. Describe the various actions and responses during Jesus' arrest. What stands out regarding Jesus' character? (Questions 27: 1-2)

(Read Matthew 26: 57-68: This passage describes the Jewish religious trial.)

2. Why did this religious trial occur first, and what was the process?

The Jewish religious trial (Annas, Caiaphas, and the Sanhedrin):

- a. Annas: Former high priest (AD 6–15), still influential (father-in-law)
- b. Caiaphas: Acting high priest (AD 18–36), son-in-law of Annas
- c. The Sanhedrin: The highest Jewish ruling council (chief priests [Saducees], elders [respected lay leaders], scribes [Pharisees]). A combination of a supreme court, religious authority, and governing body for the Jewish people under Roman rule. Under the Romans, they had limited authority. They could not carry out capital punishment without Roman approval (John 18:31). They were most knowledgeable in Scripture yet missed the Messiah. They upheld external law but neglected true righteousness. Many were more concerned with preserving power and stability than pursuing Truth (John 11:48.) (Additional Scripture: John 18:12–24; Matthew 26:57)

Jewish Legal Expectations:	What Happened (Violations): Matthew 26:59–68; Mark 14:55–65
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Trials held during daylight - Not during feast days - Multiple agreeing witnesses required (Deut 19:15) - Defendant allowed a defense - Death verdict delayed by one day - No self-incrimination 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Night trial - Trial during Passover - False witnesses contradicting - "The chief priests... were seeking false testimony" (Matt 26:59) - Jesus forced to testify against Himself - Immediate verdict - Physical abuse during proceedings - They spat in His face (strongest expression of contempt and rejection; public humiliation and shaming), struck Him (brutal physical blows with closed fist), and slapped (open-handed strike associated with insult, humiliation, mockery) Him" (Matt 26:67)

3. Jesus was asked two questions by the high priest: *1. Have you no answer to make (to the final 2 witnesses' testimony that he said he would destroy the temple and raise it up in 3 days)? 2. Tell me if you are the Christ, the Son of God.* What were Jesus' answers and why are these significant? (Questions 27: 5-6)
 - Silence: Isaiah 53: 7 - He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth."
 - "Son of Man": Daniel 7: 13-14
 - "Seated at the right hand of power": Psalm 110:1
 - "Coming on the clouds of heaven": Daniel 7:13-14; Rev 1:7
4. How did the religious leaders respond to Jesus' answer? (Ques 6c)

****Theological Significance: Jesus condemned by corrupt Jewish religious leaders**
Psalm 2:2 – "The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord and against his Anointed..."
5. What was the process of a usual Roman trial versus what happened with Jesus?

(Read Matthew 27:11-31. This passage describes the Roman trial; Luke 23; John 18–19; Matt 26-27)

Roman Legal Expectations:	What Happened:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Specific charges examined - Defense allowed - Crime against Rome required 	<p>Pilate (Roman governor): Declares Jesus innocent multiple times (John 18:38; 19:4,6); Attempts compromise (scourging, prisoner release)</p> <p>Herod (Tetrarch of Galilee): Treats Jesus with mockery, not justice (Luke 23:8–11)</p> <p>Failures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Political pressure overrides justice - Innocence ignored - Crowd influence decisive “Wanting to satisfy the crowd...” (Mark 15:15)

6. What did Pilate ask Jesus and how did Jesus respond? (Ques 11) What was Pilate’s verdict?

****Theological significance: Both Jewish and Gentile authorities reject Christ**

Acts 4:27 “for truly in this city there were gathered together against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel...”

(Read Matt 27:32-66 The Crucifixion)

7. Why is it significant that Jesus was led outside the city to die? (Ques 28: 1b)

- Lev 4:12,21: “...all the rest of the bull - he shall carry outside the camp to a clean place, to the ash heap, and shall burn it up on a fire of wood. On the ash heap it shall be burned up... And he shall carry the bull outside the camp and burn it up as he burned the first bull; it is the sin offering for the assembly.”
- Heb 13:11-13: “For the bodies of those animals whose blood is brought into the holy places by the high priest as a sacrifice for sin are burned outside the camp. ¹² So Jesus also suffered outside the gate in order to sanctify the people through his own blood. ¹³ Therefore let us go to him outside the camp and bear the reproach he endured.”

8. Why would Jesus have refused the drink offered to Him? (Psalm 69:21: They gave me poison for food, and for my thirst they gave me sour wine to drink.) (Ques 28:2)

To fully endure suffering; to faithfully fulfill Scripture; to reject false mercy wrapped in mockery; to drink the full cup of God’s Will. He refuses the cup offered by man because He is fully drinking the cup given by the Father.

9. How do the following verses help us understand what Jesus’ crucifixion means for us? (Ques 28:3)

- Rom 5:6-8: “For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷ For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die, but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”
- 2 Cor 5:21: “For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”
- I Pet 1:18-19: “knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, ¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.”
- I Pet 2:24: “He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.”
- I John 4:10-11: “In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. ¹¹ Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.”

10. What did the darkness that covered the earth signify? (Ques 28:6)

- Isaiah 13:9-10 – “Behold, the day of the Lord comes, cruel, with wrath and fierce anger, to make the land a desolation and to destroy its sinners from it. For the stars of the heavens and their constellations will not give their light; the sun will be dark at its rising, and the moon will not shed its light.”
- Acts 2:20 – “the sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the day of the Lord comes, the great and magnificent day.”

11. Describe the painful reality expressed by Jesus’ cry in verse 46 (quote from Ps 22:1). What does Jesus’ death on the cross say about the seriousness of sin and the costliness of redemption? (Ques 7 and 10)

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12. Review the Heart Responses to Jesus’ Arrest and Crucifixion (see separate handout)

13. Know God’s Perfectly Good, Complete, Perfect Sovereignty amid our Human Sinful Chaos

- Acts 2:23: “this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men.”
- Acts 4:27–28: “for truly in this city there were gathered together against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, ²⁸ to do whatever your hand and your plan had predestined to take place.”
- Why does God hold people responsible for events He plans, like Jesus’ death? (Ques 27:9c)

<p>Human Sin:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Corruption - Betrayal - Fear - Violence 	<p>God’s Work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Planned redemption - Sovereign control 	<p>Jesus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Steadfast - Obedient - Faithful
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God’s goodness and perfect Will:

- Hebrews 12:2: “looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.”
- Genesis 50:20: “As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today.”

God remains steadfast, sovereign, and faithful even amid human sin, weakness, and chaos. His purposes are never thwarted, and through the greatest injustice, He accomplishes the greatest redemption.

14. What do we learn about God the Father and Jesus the Son from these chapters? How does this transform how we live each day? How does it strengthen you? How does it challenge you? What is your heart response?