

JESUS TRIED AND CONDEMNED
(Matthew 26:57-68)

- I. Background on Jewish LEGAL Proceedings
 - A. Essentially, required pursuit of JUSTICE (Deut. 16:18-20)
 - B. Governing principle was, “Sanhedrin is to SAVE, not DESTROY, life”
 - 1. Trials must be OPEN to public SCRUTINY
 - 2. Conviction required at least TWO WITNESSES
 - 3. PERJURY incurred the penalty of the CHARGE
 - 4. CONFESSION was not SUFFICIENT to convict on its own
 - 5. Sentence could not be FULFILLED until TWO DAYS later
- II. The Illegal CONVENING of the SANHEDRIN (Matt. 26:57-58)
 - A. Gathered at NIGHT
 - B. Gathered in the PALACE of the HIGH PRIEST
 - C. Followed by a HESITANT Apostle
- III. The Illegal CONSPIRACY to CONVICT Jesus (Matt. 26:59-61)
 - A. Acted as PROSECUTORS not JUDGES
 - 1. ACTIVELY sought INCRIMINATING testimony
 - 2. Trying to manufacture a CASE for the DEATH penalty
 - B. Had LYING witnesses READY to testify

1. The witnesses were INEFFECTIVE
 2. This attempt to condemn Jesus FAILED
- IV. The Illegal CONFRONTATION Demanding a CONFESSION (Matt. 26:62-64)
- A. Addressed the ACCUSED directly
 1. Asked why Jesus did not RESPOND
 2. Received only a DIGNIFIED SILENCE
 - B. Demanded a CONFESSION
 1. Asked if Jesus claimed to be the MESSIAH
 2. Asked if Jesus claimed to be the SON OF GOD
 - C. Received a HELPFUL Admission
 1. Jesus CONFIRMED the statement
 2. Explained that HE would be their JUDGE
- V. The Illegal CONDEMNATION of Jesus (Matt. 26-65-66)
- A. FINALLY laid a CHARGE against Jesus
 1. Caiaphas leveled a FORMAL charge of BLASPHEMY
 2. He called for an IMMEDIATE VOTE to CONVICT
 - B. UNANIMOUSLY pronounced He must DIE (cf. Mk. 14:64)
- VI. The Illegal CONDUCT of the COURT (Matt. 26:67-68)
- A. ABUSED the condemned
 - B. MOCKED the condemned