

Pre-Dawn Trial Before Annas

Lesson 3
John 18:12-24

Introduction.

1. Lesson 1 was devoted to Jesus praying in Gethsemane.
 - a. Jesus knew what was before Him.
 - b. He knew that He would be condemned and crucified the next day, that is, the next morning.
 - c. He prayed that God's will be done. (Lk. 22:42).
 - d. "An angel" came and strengthened Jesus. (Lk. 22:43).
2. Lesson 2 focused on the Judas bringing the mob to the garden of Gethsemane and the arrest of Jesus.
 - a. Judas, pretended to love Jesus, but he heartlessly betrayed Jesus with a kiss. (Lk. 22:47, 48).
 - b. Jesus was arrested (like a criminal), and led away to be tried by the Jewish authorities.
 - c. He would not have any chance of being spared from scourging, condemnation and death.
 - d. Everything was fixed against Jesus by the Jewish authorities.
 - e. They had prejudged Jesus and already determined He must die. (Jn. 11:50).
 - f. The Bible teaches it would have been better if Judas had never been born. (Matt. 26:24).
3. This lesson will be devoted to the pre-dawn trial of Jesus before the former high priest Annas.
 - a. The high priesthood was for life; therefore, Annas was still high priest according to the Mosaic Law and in the eyes of many or most Jews.
 - b. The Romans had made Caiaphas high priest.
 - c. Everything about this trial was illegal, but it did not stop His enemies from pursuing their evil agenda.
 - d. The Jewish leaders, anxious to put Jesus to death, held several illegal trials in the middle of night.
 - e. They want to condemn Him to death, and then bring Him to Pilate the Roman governor who had the authority to execute Jesus and do it without delay. There would be no appeals.
 - f. Great pressure would be exerted on Pilate to get Jesus quickly executed.
4. The next lesson will examine the trial of Caiaphas and all its illegal aspects.

Jesus Was Led By The Roman Soldiers To Annas

This Was Before Dawn On Friday

JOH 18:12 So the Roman cohort and the commander, and the officers of the Jews, arrested Jesus and bound Him,

JOH 18:13 and led Him to Annas first; for he was father-in-law of Caiaphas, who was high priest that year.

- “Bound Him” is mentioned only by John. (Jn. 18:12,24). The Synoptic writers omit this detail.
- “That year” - The office could be frequently changed by the civil ruler. See Jn. 11:49. This was not always the case as we can see from Annas and Caiaphas who held the position for a number of years.

JOH 11:49 But a certain one of them, Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, said to them, "You know nothing at all,

- The word “enautos” [eh nau **tahs**] can mean “year, era.” The word here denotes Caiaphas was high priest during that era, that is, “at that time.” It does not mean it was an annual office.
 - “First” points to a “second” trial before Caiaphas.
1. Annas had been high priest a long time, A.D. 6-15.
 2. After this 5 sons enjoyed this office for a short time. Annas was a man of great authority and influence who made them a high priest.
 3. The office was now filled by his son-in-law -Caiaphas. He had been high priest a long time, A.D. 18-36.
 4. Annas was the rightful high priest although the Romans had appointed his son-in-law Caiaphas as legal high priest.
 5. He was a man of great influence among the Jews, and they wanted Annas to find a charge against Jesus that would stick with Pilate the Roman governor.
 6. Josephus says of Annas that he was appointed high priest in A.D. 6 and was deposed by Valerius Gratas in A.D. 15. (Antiquities XVIII, 11, 26 and 34).

Caiaphas

JOH 18:14 Now Caiaphas was the one who had advised the Jews that it was expedient for one man to die on behalf of the people.

1. As already stated Caiaphas was the current high priest, and the one recognized by Rome.
2. This is a reference to John 11:50.

JOH 11:50 nor do you take into account that it is expedient for you that one man should die for the people, and that the whole nation should not perish. "

- a. Caiaphas pretended to be concerned for the Jewish nation, but this was far from the truth!
- b. He hated Jesus and wanted to see Him dead.
- c. The Jewish leaders had paid Judas to betray Jesus and were determined to destroy Jesus as quickly as possible.

- d. The Bible reveals that Judas approach the Jewish leaders asking them what they would give him to betray Jesus. (Matt. 26:15).

MAT 26:15 and said, "What are you willing to give me to deliver Him up to you?" And they weighed out to him thirty pieces of silver.

Peter And John Followed Jesus

JOH 18:15 And Simon Peter was following Jesus, and so was another disciple. Now that disciple was known to the high priest, and entered with Jesus into the court [unroofed enclosure] of the high priest,

- He [John] was “known” to the high priest, but how he knew him is not revealed
- 1. Peter wanted to see what would happen to Jesus.
- 2. He dearly loved Jesus, but he feared for his life.
- 3. He would soon betray Jesus three times as Jesus had prophesied.
- 4. The words “another disciple” appear to refer to the apostle John.
- 5. He had fled with all the other disciples when Jesus was arrested in Gethsemane (Matt. 26:56; Mk. 14:50), but returned to see what was going to happen to Jesus.
- 6. He knew the household as well as the high priest. The word “gnostos” [gnoh **stahs**] translated “known” means he was at least an acquaintance and perhaps a friend.

Peter Standing At The Door Outside

JOH 18:16 but Peter was standing at the door outside. So the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out and spoke to the doorkeeper, and brought in Peter.

1. Peter also followed Jesus, but was very fearful.
2. He would soon deny the One he said he would never deny. (Matt. 26:33-35).

MAT 26:33 But Peter answered and said to Him, "Even though all may fall away because of You, I will never fall away."

MAT 26:34 Jesus said to him, "Truly I say to you that this very night, before a cock crows, you shall deny Me three times."

MAT 26:35 Peter said to Him, "Even if I have to die with You, I will not deny You." All the disciples said the same thing too.

First Denial Of Peter

JOH 18:17 The slave-girl therefore who kept the door said to Peter, "You are not also one of this man's disciples, are you?" He said, "I am not."

1. This was Peter’s first denial.
2. The second and third denials are recorded in John 18:25-27.

Slaves, Officers And Peter Warmed Themselves By The Fire

JOH 18:18 Now the slaves and the officers were standing there, having made a charcoal fire, for it was cold and they were warming themselves; and Peter also was with them, standing and warming himself.

1. Matthew and Mark record this denial. (Matt. 26:71,72; Mk. 14:68).

MAT 26:71 And when he had gone out to the gateway, another servant-girl saw him and said to those who were there, "This man was with Jesus of Nazareth."

MAT 26:72 And again he denied it with an oath, "I do not know the man."

MAR 14:68 But he denied it, saying, "I neither know nor understand what you are talking about." And he went out onto the porch.

2. "Charcoal fire" denotes a mass or heap of live coals.

The Examination Before Annas

Annas Questions Jesus

John 18:19-24

JOH 18:19 The high priest therefore questioned Jesus about His disciples, and about His teaching.

1. This questioning was not a sincere attempt to learn the truth or what Jesus had actually taught.
2. He was familiar with Christ's teachings as the next verse reveals. (Jn. 18:20).
3. He was seeking to find a reason to condemn Jesus and have Him executed.
4. Annas was hopeful perhaps of learning the number of Jesus' disciples and perhaps their power.
5. He violated the law of Moses by conducting this trial at night, and seeking to get Jesus to incriminate Himself.
6. It was their responsibility to bring forth accusers.
7. Jesus was being forced to demonstrate His innocence without knowing the charges against Him and without being able to call witnesses in His defense.

Jesus Speaks

JOH 18:20 Jesus answered him, "I have spoken openly to the world; I always taught in synagogues, and in the temple, where all the Jews come together; and I spoke nothing in secret.

1. Jesus did speak some things privately. (Matt. 13:10,11).

MAT 13:10 And the disciples came and said to Him, "Why do You speak to them in parables?"

MAT 13:11 And He answered and said to them, "To you it has been granted to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been granted.

2. He did not do so for the purposes of concealment. (Matt. 10:27).

MAT 10:27 "What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the housetops.

JOH 18:21 "Why do you question Me? Question those who have heard what I spoke to them; behold, these know what I said."

1. Jesus was not intimidated by the high priest, and He reprimanded the high priest.
2. They could have questioned those who heard Him if they had questions about what He taught.

JOH 18:22 And when He had said this, one of the officers standing by gave Jesus a blow, saying, "Is that the way You answer the high priest?"

1. The word "blow" is from "hrapisma" [hrahp ee smah] referring to "a blow with a club, a blow with the palm of the hand, slap."
2. It is not certain if he used his hand or as the word can mean hit Jesus with a club.

Jesus Rebukes High Priest

JOH 18:23 Jesus answered him, "If I have spoken wrongly, bear witness of the wrong; but if rightly, why do you strike Me?"

1. Jesus demands that the one who struck Him reveal what He has done wrong.
2. He challenges this man and Annas to give the real reason for striking Him.
3. He did not literally turn the other cheek, but the Lord rebuked him.
4. These scriptures reveals the sinlessness of Jesus and He was hated without a rightful cause. (See Jn. 8:46; 15:25).

JOH 8:46 "Which one of you convicts Me of sin? If I speak truth, why do you not believe Me?"

JOH 15:25 "But they have done this in order that the word may be fulfilled that is written in their Law, 'They hated Me without a cause.'

5. The sinlessness of Jesus is set forth in the epistles. (Heb. 4:15; 1 Pet. 2:22; 1 Jn. 3:5).
6. Paul also had a similar experience when he stood before "the Council." (Acts 23:1-3).

ACT 23:1 And Paul, looking intently at the Council, said, "Brethren, I have lived my life with a perfectly good conscience before God up to this day."

ACT 23:2 And the high priest Ananias commanded those standing beside him to strike him on the mouth.

ACT 23:3 Then Paul said to him, "God is going to strike you, you whitewashed wall! And do you sit to try me according to the Law, and in violation of the Law order me to be struck?"

- a. Observe Paul did not literally turn the other cheek, but gave the high priest a strong rebuke.
- b. Neither he nor the Lord resorted to violence.

JOH 18:24 Annas therefore sent Him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.

- KJV has "had sent," but the Greek Aorist tense is more accurately rendered "sent" as in the NASB.
1. Annas failed to come up with a charge against Jesus.

2. He had him bound over to Caiaphas who was the current appointed high priest.

3. "Bound" - See John 18:12, 13.

JOH 18:12 So the Roman cohort and the commander, and the officers of the Jews, arrested Jesus and bound Him,
JOH 18:13 and led Him to Annas first; for he was father-in-law of Caiaphas, who was high priest that year.

4. The details of Jesus being tried before Caiaphas or before the Sanhedrin are not recorded in John.

a. He does not record His condemnation by the Jewish council.

b. He does report He was "bound to Caiaphas." (Jn. 18:24), and He was "first" questioned by Annas. (Jn. 18:13).

c. The other gospel writers record Jesus being tried before Caiaphas. (Matt. 26:57; Mk. 14:53; Lk. 22:54).

5. John does not tell us where Caiaphas was.

a. He may have been sent to another room in the same building.

b. He may have been sent to a session of the Sanhedrin in one of the temple buildings where Caiaphas was presiding.

c. The gospels are silent about the exact location.

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