

Mark 14:53-65 – Jesus Endured A Trial For You

TSK, Handfuls, GreekLexicon, Vincent, Gill, Geneva, JFB, Reinecker, PNT, Robertson, Clarke, Family, Poole, Henry, Calvin, INT

Beloved in Jesus Christ: Jesus did everything for you! It was necessary that he did everything for you because you could not do anything for yourself. Today you will see one more necessary thing he did for you: **He endured a trial for you.**

Our headings are:

The prosecution of Jesus

The proclamation of Jesus

The punishment of Jesus

Our goals are: **You will see how Jesus endured a trial for you and that you will now love and live for him.**

The Prosecution of Jesus

53 And they led Jesus away **to the high priest**; and with him were assembled all the chief priests, the elders, and the scribes.

1. Having captured Jesus, the arresting officers took him to the high priest Caiaphas, chief priests, elders, and historians (the Sanhedrin or council) to be tried (He went to the Annas first, an earlier High Priest, but nothing significant happened there.).

There are 3 noteworthy things here:

a. The high priests of the Jewish nation were being appointed by Rome, showing a conspiracy between church and state.

b. These wicked leaders had already planned to kill Jesus, not for blasphemy or rebellion against Rome, but to preserve their own positions. Blasphemy and conspiracy were only covers for their evil. So this was a fake judicial setting to confirm what they had already decided. This trial took place between 3:00AM and 4:00AM. God prophesied this evil!

Psalms 22:16 For dogs have surrounded Me; The congregation of the wicked has enclosed Me. They pierced My hands and My feet;

c. The High Priest's home should have been a place of justice, a place where the oppressed went for justice, but not here. Consider what the high priest said:

John 11:47 Then the chief priests and the Pharisees **gathered a council** and said, "What shall we do? For this **Man works many signs.** ⁴⁹ And one of them, Caiaphas, being high priest that year, said to them, "You know nothing at all, ⁵⁰ "nor do you consider that **it is expedient for us that one man should die for the people**, and not that the whole nation should perish."

54 But Peter followed Him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high

priest. And he **sat with the servants** and warmed himself at the fire.

2. Peter, who had said he would never leave Jesus, then sat some distance away from him, pretending not to be a follower.

He was waiting to see what would happen (Matthew). **But now he was sitting with the wicked – servants of the wicked chief priests.** He was literally staying warm with the enemies' fire. Peter should have been next to Jesus, defending him.

55 Now the chief priests and all the council **sought testimony against Jesus to put Him to death,** but found none. 56 **For many bore false witness against Him,** but their testimonies did not agree.

3. The prosecutors tried to bring testimony against Jesus in order to put him to death but the witnesses contradicted each other.

So 2 or 3 witnesses could not be found! And notice there was no pronouncement of death on any of the false witnesses which should have been done according to the law. And they did not go to Pilate with these false witnesses. Doing that would have undermined their goals of killing Jesus.

57 Then **some rose up and bore false witness against Him,** saying, 58 "We heard Him say, 'I will destroy this temple made with hands, and within three days I will build another made without hands.'" 59 But not **even then did their testimony agree.**

4. Because the Jewish leaders had determined the sentence before the trial, they ended up bringing in more (likely paid) false witnesses to tell them what they wanted to hear (2 witnesses according to Matthew).

And even then their testimony against Jesus contradicted each other. One witness accused Jesus of threatening to destroy the temple. But the other clarified and said that Jesus was saying that if they destroyed Jesus' body (the true temple of God) that he would raise it up on 3 days. Jesus never said he would destroy the temple nor had an inclination to do so. What amazing providence! God prevented even 2 people from saying the same thing against Jesus!

And even if it were a legitimate charge, this was not a capital crime – a crime for which one was executed.

John 2:19 Jesus answered and said to them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up."

5. Lessons:

a. Make no doubt about it, Jesus was perfectly holy, never having committed a single sin. He had to be perfectly holy to be a fit sacrifice for you. They found no sin in him. Rather, he was full of grace. Consider what he willingly gave up!

Philippians 2:7 but **made Himself of no reputation,** taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men.

b. Like Peter, you will never be strong to face the temptation to abandon Jesus if you are don't pray, if you stay away from the Word, and if you don't have the fellowship of believers.

c. Like Peter, it is easy to want to be a disciple of Christ; it is harder to want to be known as a disciple of Christ. Christians feel for each other. Christians stand up for each other.

d. See the passion the enemies of the church to cause her harm! They will go without sleep. They will give up money. They will risk losing their honor. They will do anything to harm the Bride of Christ. Know this and be prepared.

e. The Devil prefers twisting the truth than telling a bold lie. So do his people!

The Proclamation of Jesus

60 And the high priest stood up in the midst and asked Jesus, saying, "Do You answer nothing? What is it these men testify against You?" 61 But **He kept silent** and answered nothing...

1. Not having convincing evidence, the high priest tried to get Jesus to implicate himself in the crimes with which he was charged so they could kill him.

But Jesus kept silent! Why? Jesus kept silent **because he was guilty with your sins.**
What could he say?

61...Again the high priest asked Him, saying to Him, "Are You the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?"

2. So the high priest then charged Jesus, using an oath (Matthew 26) to say if he was the Christ, the Son of God.

Jesus had to answer because of the oath...and he confirmed that he was the Christ. (An oath honors God!)

Leviticus 5:1 'If a person sins in hearing the utterance of an oath, and is a witness, whether he has seen or known of the matter — if he does not tell it, **he bears guilt.**

The Jews knew Psalm 2 referred to the Son of God, the Messiah, the 2nd person of the Trinity. So if Jesus said that he was the Christ, since they believed he wasn't, they could then charge him with blasphemy.

Psalms 2:2 The kings of the earth set themselves, And the rulers take counsel together, Against the LORD and against His Anointed, saying, [7] "I will declare the decree: The LORD has said to Me, 'You are My Son, Today I have begotten You.

62 Jesus said, "I am. And you will see the Son of Man sitting at the **right hand of the Power**, and coming with the clouds of heaven."

3. Jesus proclaimed he was the Christ, and more, that he would return in judgment against that generation for their wickedness.

There had to be **consequences to those who would reject Jesus** as their sacrifice. Jesus was going to shed his blood as a gift for sinners so their sins would be forgiven, but God would severely punish the wicked Jews for rejecting him. When Titus laid siege on Jerusalem he crucified 500 Jews every day till he ran out of places to crucify them and he ran out of wood for crosses. Their blood flowed everywhere when Jerusalem was destroyed. Thousands were killed and their bodies dumped in the Sea of Galilee until the lake looked like blood. Thousands chose to kill themselves! Thousands starved to death. Over 1,000,000 were killed. (Josephus) This was ultimately the Lord's doing!

Matthew 24:30 "Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the **Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven** with power and great glory.

This judgment was a fulfillment of Daniel 7:13-14, and is confirmed by Luke 1:33. And with the judgment on the Jews, the worldwide kingdom would be established.

Daniel 7:13 "I was watching in the night visions, And behold, One like the Son of Man, Coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days, And they brought Him near before Him. 14 Then to Him **was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, That all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion, Which shall not pass away,** And His kingdom the one Which shall not be destroyed.

Additionally, in Luke's account, Jesus told **them they wouldn't believe what he said!** They would never accept his proofs. (They had rejected him for thousands of years!) No wonder he had to judge them! They killed from Abel to Zechariah!

4. Lessons:

a. The only one fit to die for you was Jesus...and he went to the cross for you. No other man, philosophy, or religion could give you salvation. The Devil continues to lie by twisting the truth and telling man that man himself could earn salvation! (He doesn't deny the need for salvation!) What a liar!

b. Point those who don't know Jesus to him so they can be saved. It doesn't matter if they seem religious or sincere. Without Jesus they will go to hell.

c. Be ready to confess you are a Christian. It might anger people and subject you to scorn, but don't deny your Savior. He loved you enough to die for you.

d. People will misuse your words today. They will accuse you of "hate speech" if they don't like what you are saying. This is old tactic. They won't care that you are speaking the truth from love.

The Punishment of Jesus

63 Then the **high priest tore his clothes** and said, "What further need do we have of witnesses? 64 "**You have heard the blasphemy!** What do you think?" And **they all condemned** Him to be deserving of death.

1. The high priest then declared that he had no more need for witnesses against Jesus and declared Jesus guilty for testifying against himself, and worthy of death.

By tearing his clothes, the inner and outer, the high priest was acting as if he were concerned about God's honor. The truth is, he had already made the decision to kill Jesus. He just wanted to appear to be pious! He wasn't. He was wicked. He ignored proof that Jesus was the Christ by all the miracles he did. And he showed his wickedness in another way: The **high priest was explicitly forbidden from tearing his clothes in anguish.** (What a fake honoring of God!)

Leviticus 21:10 'He who is the high priest among his brethren, on whose head the anointing oil was poured and who is consecrated to wear the garments, shall not uncover his head **nor tear his clothes;**

It is likely God was used this tearing of his clothes to teach of the tearing away of the priesthood from Jerusalem. (Remember Saul's trouble when he tore Samuel's clothing?)

2. The high priest then challenged the leading priests and rulers to confirm his conclusions (wickedness loves company).

And they all joined in the guilt of condemning an innocent man – except for 1 man, Joseph of Arimathea and maybe Nicodemus...who likely wasn't there.

Luke 23:51 [Joseph of Arimathea] had not consented to their decision and deed. He was from Arimathea, a city of the Jews, who himself was also waiting for the kingdom of God.

65 Then some began to spit on Him, and to blindfold Him, and to beat Him, and to say to Him, "Prophecy!" And the officers struck Him with the palms of their hands.

3. And the physical punishment began promptly, carried out by the officers and the servants of the high priests.

They spat on Jesus. They blindfolded him. They beat him. They literally punched him with both hands. They mocked him, saying: "Prophecy." They slapped him. They then asked him to say who slapped him.

Isaiah 50:6 I gave My back to those who **struck Me,** And My cheeks to those who **plucked out the beard;** I did not hide My face from **shame and spitting.**

Micah 5:1 Now gather yourself in troops, O daughter of troops; He has laid siege against us; They will **strike the judge of Israel with a rod on the cheek.**

4. Lessons:

a. Jesus was legally condemned to death, tortured, and then executed for you! This legal (according to the law) condemnation was immoral (against God's law). But it had to be that way so you, being guilty, might go free. This is the main point, but there is a secondary point.

b. Many people misuse the Bible to appear to be religious for their own gain! Consider the lifestyle of TV preachers who make millions exploiting the poor and vulnerable. Consider people who claim to be Christians but write books to advocate for Islam! How shameful!

Conclusion:

Jesus was unfairly condemned in trial – a great injustice. He willingly allowed this to happen to him because **you deserved to be condemned.** Love for you made him endure it. His condemnation was counted as yours!

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ:

a. Understand the high value God put on your salvation that he would send his only begotten Son from heaven to come and be condemned and die for you!

b. Live like you understand the value of your salvation. Don't be ashamed to identify as a Christian. Challenge Christians that are shy! Announce this message to those who are not Christians so they can be saved.

Finally, if you are not a Christian, the Devil is lying to you to make you think you can save yourself by your good works. He wants you in hell with him. To be saved, you must ask God to count Jesus life and death as yours! There is no other way.