

Did the Resurrection of Jesus Christ Happen?

Lesson 6 – Thursday Night: Jewish & Roman Trials

The Scene in the Garden

- 1) Read Mark 14:43-52. After reading about this event, what likely explanation do we have that we never see any mention of the 9 disciples nor Mary and Martha of Bethany during the whole weekend?

The Jewish Trials of Jesus

Notes regarding Jewish trials in general:

- It was illegal to try a capital charge (a trial for life) by night.¹
 - If you falsely accuse someone and they are innocent, then whatever penalty the accused would suffer is applied to the accuser.²
- 2) The first trial/hearing is recorded in John 18:13, 19-24.
 - a) Who was Jesus first taken to?
 - b) What is his title?
 - c) [extra credit] Why might Jesus be taken here first?
 - 3) The second trial is recorded in Matthew 26:57-68.
 - a) Who is present at this trial?
 - b) What is Jesus accused of and what is He convicted of?
 - c) Does the testimony of the witnesses appear to have been “coached” or deliberately false? (Note Mark 14:58-59)
 - d) What does that say about the nature of the accusation? Is there substance to it?
 - e) Before verse 63, is Jesus found guilty of any charges?

¹ Babylonian Talmud: Tractate Sanhedrin, Folio 32a, Chapter 4 “But capital charges must be tried by day and concluded by day.”

² Deuteronomy 19:16-19.

- 4) The third trial is recorded in Luke 22:66-71.
 - a) Who is present?
 - b) What time is it?
 - c) Are there witnesses called?
 - d) What is Jesus accused of?
 - e) [extra credit] Why would this trial be held?

Friday Morning: The Three Phases of the Roman Trial

- 5) Phase 1: Read John 18:28-30. Knowing that “What accusation do you bring against this Man?” is the formal opening of a Roman trial, does the priests’ response seem appropriate?

- 6) Phase 2: Read John 18:33, 37-38. Has Pilate found Jesus guilty? Read Luke 23:5-15. Did Herod find Him guilty?

- 7) Phase 3: Read Matthew 27:15-21. The priests seem to have had an understanding with Pilate that he would agree with the Jewish trial’s verdict and condemn Jesus. What hint do we get here to explain why Pilate changed his mind and decided to hold a Roman trial?

- 8) Read John 19:12-16. What finally made Pilate condemn Jesus?