



The Harvester

*Preparing Souls
To Serve The Lord!*

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Truths Testified by Jesus' Trial

Brian R. Kenyon

The trial of Jesus was a sham! It certainly violated God's law and Jewish law. It also showed the lengths to which people will go when they are bent on destroying someone, especially when there is no objective evidence showing that person has done anything truly wrong! In the midst of such a tragic trial, there are truths that can be learned about Jesus and those who opposed Him. The following is an examination of the segment of Jesus' trial recorded in John 18:28-38.

showed their blatant hypocrisy by not wanting to enter the Praetorium ("judgment hall," KJV), "lest they should be defiled." Imagine that! They were wanting to "Scripturally" eat the Passover while at the same time murdering the Passover Lamb (cf. 1 Cor. 5:7)! These Jews would not go into the Praetorium and be defiled, yet they were falsely accusing Jesus of breaking the law (Jn. 18:28). It was not even lawful for them to put Jesus to death (Jn. 18:31), yet they were manipulating Rome to do their dirty work (Jn.

Hypocrisy

Jesus' Opposition Was Fraudulent

When the soldiers arrested Jesus in the garden, they took Him to "Annas first, for he was the father-in-law of Caiaphas who was high priest that year" (Jn. 18:13). After a brief interrogation before Caiaphas and the high priest (with Peter's denial of Jesus occurring throughout this time), the Jews "led Jesus from Caiaphas to the Praetorium, and it was early morning. But they themselves did not go into the Praetorium, lest they should be defiled, but that they might eat the Passover" (Jn. 18:28).

In the New Testament, the word from which "hypocrite" (*hupokrites*, ὑποκριτής) is translated literally refers to an actor, someone who pretends to be someone he is not. This word was used by Jesus often to describe those who opposed Him (cf. Mt. 6:2, 5, 16; 23:13-15, 23, 25, 27, 29). The Jews who had Jesus arrested and brought before the Roman authorities



Welcome, Forest!

We are happy to announce that Forest Antemesaris will begin teaching this semester. Forest has been serving as an associate minister for the Orange Street church of Christ in Auburndale, Florida, since June 2019. He received formal education from Florida School of Preaching (2016 graduate), Freed-Hardeman University (BS, 2019), and is presently working toward a master's degree in apologetics from Liberty University. He was a professed atheist before meeting Lori, who was instrumental in his conversion and later became his wife. He speaks at youth events and lectureships and participates in several podcasts and other media platforms promoting God's word. Forest will be a blessing to FSOP, especially to our students!

18:31). The Jews originated as God's own special people (cf. Deut. 7:7-9), yet they were at this time betraying the very one whom God sent (Jn. 18:35).

Fallacy

Jesus' Crime Was Unfounded

When Pilate asked the Jews, "What accusation do you bring against this Man?," they could not give him a specific crime, but simply claimed, "If He were not an evildoer, we would not have delivered Him up to you" (Jn. 18:29-30). Initially, their charges involved claims that Jesus violated Jewish law, such as blasphemy (cf. Jn. 5:18; 19:7). When Pilate heard that, he responded, "You take Him and judge Him according to your law" (Jn. 18:31). When they saw Pilate would not get involved in their religious squabble, they eventually changed the charges to political ones: "If you let this Man go, you are not Caesar's friend. Whoever makes himself a king speaks against Caesar" (Jn. 19:12). These were charges Pilate could not ignore. Governors in first century Roman provinces had basically two major responsibilities: maintain peace and make sure no threats to Caesar's rule arose within their province. Any charges of real wrong doing against Jesus would be fallacious, for He always "went about doing good" (Acts 10:38).

Pilate did not legitimately uphold his civil office (cf. Jn. 19:11;

Rom. 13:3-4). He allowed these irrationally angry Jews to manipulate him. He allowed Roman soldiers to participate in arresting Jesus (Jn. 18:3, 12). He knew Jesus was not worthy of death. In fact, he declared three times, "I find no fault in Him" (Jn. 18:38; 19:4, 6). Instead of just doing what was right and releasing the innocent Son of God, Pilate tried to find a way of changing the minds of those who already condemned Jesus that would please everyone! However, since the life of Jesus was more expendable to Pilate than his own perceived reputation before Rome, the anaemic ruler "delivered Him to them to be crucified. So they took Jesus and led Him away" (cf. Jn. 19:16)!

Prophecy

Jesus' Death Was Foretold

When the Jews responded to Pilate's initial dismissal of Jesus by saying, "It is not lawful for us to put anyone to death" (Jn. 18:31), John inserted for his readers that this indicated the fulfillment of Jesus' prediction of the "death He would die" (Jn. 18:32). Jews executed capital punishment by stoning (Lev. 20:2; Deut. 13:10). Romans executed capital punish-

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ment by crucifixion. Throughout His ministry Jesus referred to His death by crucifixion, not by stoning!

And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up. (Jn. 3:14)

Then Jesus said to them, “When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am He, and that I do nothing of Myself; but as My Father taught Me, I speak these things.” (Jn. 8:28)

“And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself.” This He said, signifying by what death He would die. (Jn. 12:32-33)

This is significant and carries an apologetic element. From as far back as Moses, the Messiah was alluded to as “hanging on a tree,” a form of capital punishment not very common among the Jews (Deut. 21:23 cf. Gal. 3:13). Thus, that rare form of death being described for a Jew so far in advance could only have been possible by an omniscient mind inspiring the human writer of God-breathed Scripture (2 Tim. 3:16-17). Even the instrument of death that took Jesus’ physical life proves that God exists, that the Bible is the inspired word of God, and that Jesus is the Son of God (cf. Jn. 20:30-31)!

Regency

Jesus’ Kingship Was Confirmed

Somewhere in the initial interrogation of Jesus by Caiaphas and the high priest, the subject of Jesus’ kingship must have come up and, then, communicated to Pilate. When Pilate entered the Praetorium again, he asked Jesus, “Are You the King of the Jews?” (Jn. 18:33). After Jesus answered, “My kingdom is not of this world ... My kingdom is not from here” (Jn. 18:36), Pilate asked Him again, “Are

You a king then?” (Jn. 18:37a).

In His answer, Jesus confirmed His kingship, “You say rightly that I am a king” (Jn. 18:37b). Then, He confirmed the mission of His kingship, “For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth” (Jn. 18:37c). Finally, He confirmed the subject of His kingship, “Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice” (Jn. 18:37d). Earlier, Jesus taught the importance of hearing Him.

And other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they will hear My voice; and there will be one flock and one shepherd. (Jn. 10:16)

My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. (Jn. 10:27)

Conclusion

This segment of Jesus’ trial confirms these two truths that we must realize and by which we can live. First, opposition to Jesus will always, ultimately be hypocritical and fallacious. Yes, there are people who are ignorant, doubtful, or skeptical about Jesus. However, when rational evidence confirming Jesus is presented to them, they will either believe and obey or they will be hypocritical and/or fallacious in their reasons as to why they will not. Second, given the existence of God, the God-breathed nature of the Bible, and the reliable testimony proving that Jesus is the Son of God, it is impossible for Jesus not to be whom He claims! Given these two facts, let us reach and live by the verdict: “Lord ... You have the words of eternal life ... we have come to believe and know that You are the Christ, the Son of the living God” (Jn. 6:68-69). 🙏

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Since 1969, we have been blessed with generous supporters who, by God’s grace, have allowed us to train preachers and better prepare souls to serve the Lord. As the years go by, technology, ways of doing business, and the lives of people change. The Gospel, however, does not change nor the need all souls have for its power (Rom. 1:16). If you are not already a financial supporter of FSOP, please examine our work and your budget to see if it is possible. We would not be where we are today without the Lord working through our past supporters. We cannot keep this good work going without the Lord working through our present supporters. We cannot continue in the future without the Lord providing future supporters. Will you help us train men to preach the Gospel? —*Brian*

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Fall Registration Opens July 19 at www.fsop.net

Fall 2021 Semester Begins Aug. 16

Registration opens July 19 online at www.fsop.net. Any of these classes may be taken online for credit or to audit. Contact the office for more details.

Day	Time	Lakeland Classes	Instructor	Credit
Monday	__ 8:30-12:00	Revelation (259)	Bauer	3
	__ 1:00-4:15	Logic (270)	Beals	3
Tuesday	__ 8:30-12:00	Preacher and His Work (107)	Wheeler	3
	__ 1:00-4:15	Computers and Churches (290)	Wheeler	3
Wednesday	__ 8:30-12:00	English I: Grammar (124)	Patterson	3
	__ 1:00-4:15	Holy Spirit (250)	Kenyon	3
Thursday	__ 8:30-12:00	Genesis (264)	Atnip	3
	__ 1:00-4:15	Romans (261)	Brownlow-Dindy	3
Friday	__ 8:30-12:00	Church History (241)	Daugherty	3
	__ 1:00-4:15	First and Second Corinthians (135)	Antemesaris	3
Extension Classes				
Tuesday	__ 7:00-9:30	World Religions (275) (Wesconnett church of Christ, Jacksonville)	Ridgeway	2.5
Thursday	__ 6:00-8:30	First and Second Thessalonians and Galatians (137) (Tenth Street church of Christ, Apopka)	Kenyon	2.5
Thursday	__ 6:30-9:00	Preparation and Delivery of Sermons (203) (Eagle Lake church of Christ, Eagle Lake)	Brownlow-Dindy	2.5
Thursday	__ 6:00-8:30	Christian Evidences (244) (Orange Street church of Christ, Auburndale)	Bauer	2.5