

## Sunday Morning Message

March 12, 2023

Title – *Jesus Appearance Before the Sanhedrin*

Text – John 18:12 – 14; 19 - 24

Congregational Reading – John 18:12 - 14

### Introduction

We are examining the events occurring after Jesus' arrest in the Garden of Gethsemane. In the last message, we discussed the denial of Peter, particularly considering the steps that led up to Peter's failure. We discovered that before Peter denied the Lord, he first was struggling with overconfidence and a lack of prayer. He also distanced himself from the Lord, following Him "afar off." We saw that those same three steps often lead up to our faith failures today.

### A Comparison in the Character of Peter and Judas

- A. Peter was a coward because he yielded to the peer pressure of the crowd.
- B. Judas was a coward because when he realized he was wrong about delivering Jesus (remember - he repented because he betrayed an innocent man), instead of repenting of his sin and turning to Christ for forgiveness – he takes the easy way out and kills himself.

Spirit fullness is associated with boldness:

*"Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marvelled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus." - (Acts 4:13)*

*"And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness." - (Acts 4:31)*

*"According to my earnest expectation and my hope, that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but that with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether it be by life, or by death." - (Philippians 1:20)*

*"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek." -  
(Romans 1:16)*

*"For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day." - (2 Timothy 1:12)*

### **Review the Timeline of Events:**

1. Jesus Arrested (Matthew 26:47 – 56; Mark 14:43 – 52; Luke 22:47 – 53; John 18:2 – 11)
2. Jesus Is Brought Before Annas (John 18:12 – 14, 19 - 23)
3. Jesus Is Brought Before Caiaphas (Matthew 26:57, 59 – 68; Mark 14:53, 55 – 65; Luke 22:54, 63 - 65; John 18:24)
4. Peter's Denials (Matthew 26:58, 69 – 75; Mark 14:54, 66 – 72; Luke 22:55 – 62; John 18:15 – 18, 25 – 27)
5. Jesus Condemned by the Sanhedrin (Matthew 27:1 - 2; Mark 15:1; Luke 22:66 – 71)
6. Suicide of Judas (Matthew 27: 3 – 10)

Timeline of events that will follow Jesus' appearance before the high priests, and the Sanhedrin:

7. Jesus First Appearance Before Pilate (Matthew 27:11 – 14; Mark 15:2 – 5; Luke 23:1 – 5; John 18:28 – 38)
8. Jesus Appears Before Herod (Luke 23:6 – 12)
9. Jesus Second Appearance Before Pilate and Release of Barabbas (Matthew 27:15 – 26; Mark 15:6 – 15; Luke 23:13 – 25; John 18:39 – 40)
10. Jesus Mocked and Beaten and Final Sentence Pronounced (Matthew 27:27 – 31; Mark 15:16 – 19; John 19:1 – 16)
11. Journey to Golgotha (Matthew 27:32 – 34; Mark 15:20 – 23; Luke 23:26 – 32; John 19:17)

12. The Crucifixion (Matthew 27:35 – 44; Mark 15:24 – 32; Luke 23:33 – 43; John 19:18 – 27)
13. The Last Hours (Matthew 27:45 – 50; Mark 15:33 – 37; Luke 23:44 – 46; John 19:28 – 37)
14. Miraculous Occurrences at the Cross (Matthew 27:51 – 56; Mark 15:38 – 41; Luke 23:47 – 49)
15. Jesus' Burial (Matthew 27:57 – 61; Mark 15:42 – 47; Luke 23:50 – 56; John 19:38 – 42)
16. Pilate Seals the Tomb (Matthew 27:62 – 66)

In this message, we will look at the appearance of Jesus before the Annas, Caiaphas, and eventually the entire Sanhedrin, which is the ruling body of elders in Judaism.

Our text in John's Gospel is the only account that reveals that Jesus was first brought before Annas, the father-in-law to the high priest, possibly at his house or it may have been at his son-in-law, Caiaphas' palace (Luke 22:54). It seems like Annas was a very connected and powerful figure in Judaism, though he was not the official high priest, and was probably the ringleader responsible for having Jesus arrested and crucified. One commentators put it like this: "Annas is the one who plotted and planned all of this diabolical plot."<sup>1</sup>

Warren Wiersbe explains:

Annas held the High-Priesthood office from a.d. 6–15 when Valerius Gratus, Pilate's predecessor, removed him from office. In spite of this, Annas continued to wield influence over the office, most likely because he was still regarded as the true High-Priest and also because no fewer than 5 of his sons, and his son-in-law Caiaphas, held the office at one time or another. Two trials occurred: one Jewish and one Roman. The Jewish phase began with the informal examination by Annas (vv. 12–14, 19–23), probably giving time for

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<sup>1</sup> J. Vernon McGee, *Thru the Bible Commentary*, electronic ed., vol. 4 (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1997), 487.

the members of the Sanhedrin to hurriedly gather together. A session before the Sanhedrin was next (Matt. 26:57–68) at which consensus was reached to send Jesus to Pilate (Matt. 27:1, 2).<sup>2</sup>

Turn to Mark 14:53 – 65

Turn to Luke 22:66 – 71

Piecing all the accounts together, we see that Jesus was brought by the temple guard to Annas first, then Caiaphas and the entire body of the Sanhedrin.

### **A Contrast in the Character of Jesus and The Men Who Condemned Him**

#### **1. The religious leaders were OK with lying.**

Are you OK with lying? Is it OK to lie if it brings about a desired outcome?

Annas had to get the witnesses and story straight before Jesus was brought before Pilate. The Sanhedrin was not a problem as they would agree to whatever Annas wanted, but Pilate would need hard evidence if he was going to condemn Jesus to death.

#### **2. The religious leaders were OK with ignoring their own laws.**

Trials were not supposed to be conducted in the middle of the night.

A man was not supposed to be tried and convicted for a capital offence on the same day.

Are you OK with picking and choosing the rules that you obey?

#### **3. The religious leaders were filled with hate and violence. The Lord remained calm as they mocked Him and beat Him.**

I have said this many times before, but why do people get angry when someone has a different opinion or a different belief about something? If I am confronted by a

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<sup>2</sup> John MacArthur Jr., ed., *The MacArthur Study Bible*, electronic ed. (Nashville, TN: Word Pub., 1997), 1621.

Jehovah's Witness who is spuing out false doctrine, or even by a Christian who believes a little differently than I do about some point of doctrine, I don't get mad at them. I disagree with them, and I may even think they are stupid, but I don't get angry. Why did these religious leaders get so angry?

- It could be that they were really under conviction because deep down inside, they knew that Jesus was the Messiah.
- It probably was because that Jesus was gaining momentum and rapidly gaining followers. Remember, just a few days before this, at the Triumphal Entry, the people were crying out "*Hosanna: Blessed is the King of Israel that cometh in the name of the Lord*" (John 12:13). He was weakening their power over the people and was ultimately threatening their livelihood. These religious leaders were doing very well; they were paid handsomely. If Jesus was to become their Messiah, they would lose everything.

When the carnal man feels threatened, he will resort to wrath and violence.

The carnal man has out of control passions:

*"Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; **and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.**" (Ephesians 2:2-3)*

Carnality, which represents the Adamic nature of man, manifests itself in many ways:

*"Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts." - (Galatians 5:19-24)*

## Conclusion

The lost man has no choice but to be carnal; it is his nature, and he does not have the Spirit of God within him to combat that fleshly and lost condition.

The saved man, however, can yield to the Holy Spirit working within him. We can still be carnal at times, but we also have the choice within us of being spiritual:

*"16 This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. 17 For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would. 18 But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law. ... 22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, 23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. 24 And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. 25 If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. 26 Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another." (Galatians 5:16-18, 22-26)*

These religious leaders, except for a very few, including Nicodemus and Joseph of Arimathea and possibly some other closet members, were lost men. They were not good men, saved men, who were just misinformed or misunderstanding. If they were saved, God would have opened their eyes to the truth. If they truly wanted to be saved, God would have showed them their need for Christ. These were men that were in rejection of Christ, just as so many are today. The truth was right in front of them, but they rejected the truth. Why?

*"19 And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil." (John 3:19)*

## Invitation

If you are here today and you are not saved and you are concerned about your lost condition, you need to do what these religious leaders refused to do, you need to swallow your pride and open your mind and heart to the possibility that you have been wrong about Christ. You need to stop rejecting the truth about Christ and receive Him into your heart as your Savior and Lord.