



Jesus On Trial - The Sanhedrin

Key idea:

Facing a hostile mockery of a trial, Jesus stands resolute and fearless, declaring His Divine identity as the Messiah, Son of God, Suffering Servant, and Son of Man.

Key text:

Mark 14:53-65

They took Jesus to the high priest, and all the chief priests, elders and teachers of the law came together. 54 Peter followed him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest. There he sat with the guards and warmed himself at the fire. 55 The chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin were looking for evidence against Jesus so that they could put him to death, but they did not find any. 56 Many testified falsely against him, but their statements did not agree.

57 Then some stood up and gave this false testimony against him: 58 “We heard him say, ‘I will destroy this man-made temple and in three days will build another, not made by man.’” 59 Yet even then their testimony did not agree. 60 Then the high priest stood up before them and asked Jesus, “Are you not going to answer? What is this testimony that these men are bringing against you?” 61 But Jesus remained silent and gave no answer. Again the high priest asked him, “Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed One?”

62 “I am,” said Jesus. “And you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven.” 63 The high priest tore his clothes. “Why do we need any more witnesses?” he asked. 64 “You have heard the blasphemy. What do you think?” They all condemned him as worthy of death. 65 Then some began to spit at him; they blindfolded him, struck him with their fists, and said, “Prophecy!” And the guards took him and beat him.

Key points:

1. The trial of Jesus before the Sanhedrin was a mockery of justice, violating many of their own procedures.
2. Jesus boldly proclaimed His identity as the Messiah, Son of God, Suffering Servant, and Son of Man despite knowing it would lead to His condemnation.

3. The Sanhedrin rejected Jesus not for any wrongdoing, but for Who He is - The Divine Son of God..
4. Even in this unjust situation, God was still sovereign and accomplishing His will.
5. We often struggle with the same temptation to "put God in the dock" and justify ourselves rather than accepting His authority.

Discussion Questions:

1. What stood out to you most from the teaching? Why?
2. The teaching mentioned several ways the Sanhedrin violated their own procedures. How does this highlight the injustice of Jesus' trial?
3. Why do you think Jesus remained silent for much of the trial but then boldly proclaimed His identity when directly asked?
4. How does Jesus' response to injustice and false accusations challenge or inspire you?
5. The teaching suggests that people today often reject Jesus for who He is, rather than His teachings. Have you observed this? How so?
6. In what ways might we be tempted to "put God in the dock" in our own lives? How can we resist this tendency?
7. How does the reality of future judgment by Jesus impact how we should live now?

Practical Applications:

1. Practice Confession: Spend time this week in honest confession before God, acknowledging your sins without trying to justify them.
2. Identity Reflection: Write down your personal beliefs about who Jesus is. How do these beliefs impact your daily life?
3. Injustice Response: Consider a situation where you've faced or witnessed injustice. How can Jesus' example guide your response?
4. Gospel Sharing: Practice explaining to a friend or family member why Jesus' identity is central to the Christian faith, not just His teachings.
5. Future Focus: Make a list of ways you can "live in light of" the day when you will stand before Christ. Choose one to implement this week.
6. Gratitude Exercise: Each day this week, thank God for taking your condemnation upon Himself through Jesus' sacrifice.

7. Scripture Meditation: Spend time meditating on Philippians 2:5-11, reflecting on Christ's humility and exaltation.