

## Come And See Part 4

The Trial of Jesus Christ

*Matthew 27:1-26, Luke 23:1-25*

*Memory Verses: John 11:50*

### MANUSCRIPT

#### Introduction (Me, We, & the Struggle)

We are in a series titled; Come and See. Come and See Jesus at the last supper. Come and See Jesus praying in the garden. This week we continue as we ask you to come and see Jesus betrayed and tried.

I'm sure at some point you have been betrayed. I'm sure at some point you've been falsely accused and tried by your peers. Perhaps you are still dealing with the scars of those horrible events.

Personally I can relate. Being in ministry for the past 20 years I have had my share of betrayals, false accusations, and mock trials. I'm sure you can relate as well.

Jesus can relate. He was betrayed by his best friends. He was betrayed with a kiss by one of his brothers, one of his disciples. He was falsely accused of blasphemy and He was tried by the corrupt establishment that could not believe that, because of his humility, and meager status, he could be the messiah. The very one they were seeking for thousands of years, they put on trial and sentenced him to die.

This morning I want you to know that **even though you may be betrayed, falsely accused, or unfairly judged by your peers, the fact that Jesus endured the same tells you that you are in good company.**

#### Teaching (Expand on the Problem, God)

The first thing we need to see this morning is that... **When You Are Betrayed Remember That Jesus Will Never Leave You Nor Forsake You.** Let's look at the betrayal of Christ in *Mark 14:1-2, 10-11, 43-52, Luke 22:1-6, 47-53, John 11:45-57, 18:1-11, and Matthew 26:1-5, 14-16, 47-56.*

There are a few things to note here as we look at these passages. For one, the religious elite had wanted to capture and kill Jesus for years. Why? Why did they want to kill Jesus. A couple of reasons. First, they couldn't see him as the messiah. No matter how many miracles Christ did, or how many demons he cast out, they remained blind to the fact that Jesus was the promised one of God. Instead, secondly, they saw him as a threat to their religious system. Jesus would take away their prestige and change things that they didn't want changed. They couldn't allow him to continue to ruin the pious organization that they had built for centuries so they had to capture him and kill him. Thirdly, they thought

killing him was justified as it would be to save countless others. Look at the prophecy of Caiaphas in *John 11:50* again. It was better for one man to die for the sake of all of the people. How right they were. Even though they didn't mean it in this way, Jesus truly did die to save mankind.

Another thing of note here is that they knew that because of his popularity among the people that they couldn't arrest him publicly. They needed to do so by cover of night and in a secluded place. Judas was willing and able to inform them of the perfect opportunity to arrest him in the garden. For his information they paid him 30 pieces of silver equivalent to around \$200 today. That's mind boggling to me. \$200 is nothing. It's like Judas was willing to sell out Jesus for a middle of the road vacuum cleaner or a used playstation. In terms of value, Jesus didn't mean much more than a couple days pay to Judas. His three year friendship and mentorship amounted to almost nothing.

And then he betrayed him with a kiss. A kiss is a symbolic gesture of love and care, yet here Judas means it for evil and hate. This kiss; **an affectionate portrayal of love was used as a satanic betrayal of love.** And, even Jesus questions this? Jesus knew it was going to happen, Jesus knew it must happen, but this form of betrayal was so demonic that even Jesus is caught off guard. There's your everyday, run of the mill betrayal and then there is this kind of betrayal which is on a whole other level. This type of betrayal is so evil that it not only has the potential to destroy the one being betrayed, but also the betrayer. As we know, eventually Judas' guilt consumes him and in his shame he commits suicide. Look at *Matthew 27:3-10.*

After Judas delivers over Jesus, the disciples, Peter namely, are willing to take up arms against those who have come to arrest Him. Jesus isn't having it. Peter cuts off a guys ear, and then Jesus immediately heals it. He says, put away your swords, this is not how this is going to go down. He tells them that if he wanted he could call down 12 legions of angels. At 6,000 angels per legion, that would be over 100k angels to protect him. Jesus has the power to call down the armies of Heaven, and yet he allows them to arrest him. Jesus makes it clear that they aren't able to arrest him because they have armed men but because it is his time. He's been in a vulnerable position for years, He could have been arrested pretty much anytime, but this is happening now at his will, as this must be done to fulfill scripture. This is part of God's plan.

The betrayal and the arrest of Jesus were all a part of God's plan. And so it is when people betray us. When people betray you, when they come against you, Jesus knows about it, Jesus allows it, and Jesus has already figured out how to use it as part of his strategy to bring glory to God through the salvation of the lost. If this story shows us anything it is that even in one of his most vulnerable moment's Jesus was still in control. He is still in control. If you are in Christ, know this, he will never abandon you over

to the ways of this world or to the will of satan... he has you in his hands and he's never letting go. **Even though you may be betrayed, falsely accused, or unfairly judged by your peers, the fact that Jesus endured the same tells you that you are in good company.**

The second thing we need to see this morning is that... **When You Are Falsely Accused Remember That Jesus The Truth Will Set You Free.** Let's look at the trials of Jesus in **Matthew 26:57-68, 27:1-2, 11-14, Mark 14:53-65, 15:1-5. John 18:12-14, 19-24, 28-32, and Luke 22:63-23:12.** Christ faces four trials in total. Let's look here at the first three.

The first trial is before Annas the father in law of Caiaphas, Caiaphas the High Priest, and the entire Sanhedrin with all the scribes and elders. They ask him about his teachings and Jesus answers, "you've heard everything I've taught because I teach in the open." They hit him in the face in response. They bring in liars to falsely accuse him but they can't get their stories straight. They don't have anything real to convict him of any crime. So Caiaphas just straight up asks him if He is the Christ or not. Jesus answers, yes, and you will see me at the right hand of God and coming on the clouds. At this moment they have a choice. We worship him as the Christ or we destroy him for being a blasphemer. They go with door number two. Because they choose not to believe him as the Christ they use this as evidence that he should be killed, and then they hit him in the face again before taking him to Pilate.

The second trial is before the Governor of Judea. They need the approval of the Roman government to kill him and so they take him to Pilate. Here, they accuse him of pretending to be the Christ, so Pilate asks Him, are you the King of the Jews? Jesus boldly affirms this to Pilate. They accuse him of forbidding people to give tribute to Caesar. But this is not true. In **Matthew 22:21, and Mark 12:17** Jesus teaches the people that they are to render unto caesar what is caesar's. In questioning Jesus, Pilate finds nothing against Him and tries to release Him. The people will have none of it and so Pilate sends Jesus to Herod.

The third trial is before King Herod, the Governor of Galilee. This is a special treat for Herod because he has long wanted to see Jesus do one of his tricks. Look back at **Luke 9:7-9.** But Jesus doesn't do any tricks. In fact, he doesn't even say a word. So Herod and his people mock him and clothe him in royal attire and send him back to Pilate.

The application is simple. Just as they falsely accused Jesus and gave him a hard time, people will do the same to you. People have done the same to you haven't they? But get this, the truth always sets you free. Christ was eventually set free from death and the grave through resurrection. You will also be set free because truth frees you from the guilt of the lie. Jesus could've lied and been set free but then again we

would be dead in our sins without salvation. No good. Lies don't lead anywhere good. Our lies always tend to consume us in the end. But when we speak the truth we are freed from that guilt and that burden.

Truth also frees us from the condemnation of sin. As my mom always said, be sure your sins will find you out. She was right. You can lie now, but in the end it will come out and things will be worse for it. Bring it into the light and deal with it so that there can be restoration. Holding to the truth of Christ will give you new life. **Truth aligns you with Christ who is the way the, the truth, and the life.**

Finally, Jesus knows the truth and the truth honors him. We don't talk about honor anymore, for millennia men and women would stand strong for what they believed to be truth, never wavering, because to waver from the truth meant that they had dishonored themselves, their family, and their faith. We must be people of honor, integrity, and honesty. Listen, someday you will be rewarded for your commitment to the truth. It may not be now, but it will most certainly happen in eternity. No matter how hard it is to stay honorable in keeping to the truth, someday it will be worth it. **Even though you may be betrayed, falsely accused, or unfairly judged by your peers, the fact that Jesus endured the same tells you that you are in good company.**

The last thing we need to see this morning is that... **When You Are Unfairly Judged Remember That Jesus Is The Justice of God.** Let's look at the final verdict in **Matthew 27:15-26, Mark 15:6-15, Luke 23:13-25, and John 18:33-19:16.** Here we see the fourth and final trial of Jesus. Pilate asks Jesus again if he is the King of the Jews. Jesus responds, "do you say I am the king?" Pilate says, "no, I'm not a Jew I don't believe in their kingdom." Jesus says, "my kingdom is not of this world." Pilate says, "so you are a king?" Jesus says, "yes and my purpose is to tell the world the truth." Pilate asks, "what is truth?" I love this conversation because we can see that even in his final hours, Jesus is still trying to lead this man Pilate into his kingdom. Nothing deters Jesus from his mission of saving men.

Pilate's wife urges him to release Christ because of dreams that she has been having and so Pilate tries to release Jesus by giving them a choice between him and Barabbas; an evil murderous thief. This fails as they quickly choose Barabbas. So Pilate has Jesus flogged, beaten within a shred of his life, thinking that if he does this then their bloodlust will be satisfied. It isn't. They put a crown of thorns on him, they mock him and punch him again and again.

At this point Pilate is sure that they will allow him to be released, but they are hell bent on murdering this man. Pilate grows afraid of the crowd fearing a riot and so one last time he goes back to speak to Jesus. Jesus tells him that this is all happening by the authority of God.

So one last time Pilate brings Jesus before the people and asks,

“should I kill your king?” They answer, “we have no king but Caesar; crucify him!” At this point, Pilate relents, washes his hands of the blood of Jesus, and hands Him over to be crucified. Notice that Pilate betrays his conscience and hands over a man he knows to be innocent and good. He gives into the pressure of the crowd and finds Jesus guilty even though he wasn't guilty of anything. He has a man killed because he feared for his own life and he thought by washing his hands he could clear himself. He can't. None of us can.

Every single person in this story is guilty of murder. Jesus is guilty of nothing, and yet he is sentenced to death! Sometimes the innocent pay for the guilty. Men in jail who are later found innocent. Those sent to war for the crimes of their leaders. You, when you are judged unfairly and because of it; ostracized and persecuted. It's not fair, but it happens. But get this, if they did it to Jesus, they will do it to you. And if Jesus could endure his cross, you can endure yours.

Get this, Jesus is the justice of God. We deserved his wrath and in Christ we got mercy. We deserved hell and in Christ's death we get life everlasting. What's more unfair; the fact that Jesus was killed or that because of his death you can escape the punishment of your sins? Some may even call that an injustice. **In the light of the injustice of your salvation, perhaps through Christ you can also endure the injustices of this world. Even though you may be betrayed, falsely accused, or unfairly judged by your peers, the fact that Jesus endured the same tells you that you are in good company.**

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## Application

Look again at what we've learned this morning. Jesus was betrayed by those he loved. Jesus was plotted against and falsely accused. Jesus was unjustly convicted and sentenced to death. It doesn't seem fair.

We, also, will be betrayed by those we love. We will be plotted against and falsely accused at times. And we will be unfairly judged. It isn't fair.

## Conclusion

But life isn't about being fair. Life is about being meaningful. Jesus has a plan in the midst of all of our trials. It wasn't fair that Jesus had to die for our sins either. If you want fair, you deserve hell. If you want Jesus' plan, then you may have to endure some hardships but in the end you will be saved.

When you are betrayed, Jesus will never leave you or forsake you. When you are falsely accused remember that Jesus is the truth that will set you free. And when you are unfairly judged remember that Jesus is the justice of God that we don't deserve. **Even though you may be**