

Mark 14:53-72

14:53 – “**And they led Jesus to the high priest. And all the chief priests and the elders and the scribes came together.**

1. High Priest was Caiaphas

- a. Mark does not mention his name, but Matthew, Luke and John and the book of Acts do.
- b. Caiaphas was appointed by Rome in 18 AD and served until 36 AD
- c. This was an unofficial meeting of special members of the Sanhedrin before Jesus was taken officially to the Sanhedrin after the sun has risen.
- d. The Sanhedrin would meet at sunrise and deliver Jesus to the Romans for the civil trial early in the morning because Rome held their civil trials shortly after sunrise.
- e. This was a Jewish feast day, but the religious leaders wanted to move quickly before the public could move their support for Jesus.

f. Normally the Sanhedrin would hear a case involving capital punishment or the death sentence and then wait a day before casting their vote. But, not this time.

g. In 1990 during a construction project on southwest of Jerusalem across the Hinnom Valley the family tomb of Caiaphas was found. Included in the tomb were:

- i. A decorated, intricately designed ossuary with Aramaic inscription that read “Joseph son of Caiaphas” which is the name of Caiaphas of the New Testament was found.
- ii. Inside this ossuary were the bones of a man about 60 years old.
- iii. A coin found in one of the ossuaries was minted by Herod Agrippa (37–44 C.E.).
- iv. Bones of five other people were found:
 1. Two infants
 2. A child 2-5 years old
 3. A 13-18 year old boy
 4. An adult woman



14:54 – “**And Peter had followed him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest. And he was sitting with the guards and warming himself at the fire.**

1. Peter made it into the court yard of the wealthy home of the high priest

14:55 – “**Now the chief priests and the whole council were seeking testimony against Jesus to put him to death, but they found none.**

1. “Council” in the Greek is *Sanhedrin*

14:56 – “**For many bore false witness against him, but their testimony did not agree.**

1. Witnesses who must have been pre-planned were found in the middle of the night
 2. The Jewish trial needed two witnesses. But, they could not agree.
- 14:57 – **“And some stood up and bore false witness against him, saying,**
- 14:58 – **““We heard him say, ‘I will destroy this temple that is made with hands, and in three days I will build another, not made with hands.’”**
1. It appears they confused 2-3 of Jesus’ teachings and statements to get a confusing combination of disconnected events:
 - a. The temple will be destroyed. Not one stone will be left.
 - b. Jesus will be killed. His body will be killed by crucifixion.
 - c. Jesus will be resurrected in three days.
 - d. There will be a kingdom of God that is not of man’s hands.
- 14:59 – **“Yet even about this their testimony did not agree.**
- 14:60 – **“And the high priest stood up in the midst and asked Jesus, “Have you no answer to make? What is it that these men testify against you?”**
1. Caiaphas decides to gamble to see if Jesus will accuse himself.
 2. Jesus does not have answer or accuse himself legally. It was an illegal question.
 3. Caiaphas uses a direct question
- 14:61 – **“But he remained silent and made no answer. Again the high priest asked him, “Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?”**
1. “The Blessed One” is the same as referring to God without having to say the name of God.\
 2. “The Son of the Blessed One” was believed to be the Messiah who was the human descendent of David.
 3. Caiaphas was asking if Jesus was the son of David, the Messiah. He was not asking if Jesus was God.
- 14:62 – **“And Jesus said, “I am, and you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power, and coming with the clouds of heaven.”**
1. Jesus unveils his claim to be the Messiah since the time of crisis has arrived. Jesus no longer needs to conceal his identity for ministry purposes.
 2. Jesus admits he is the Messiah, but goes further claiming to be “the Son of Man” who is the divine figure in Daniel that appears in the end of time to judge all of creation.
 3. Jesus was in their face claiming to be the fair, just judge of those who were judging him unfairly and unrighteously.
 4. Besides the statement Jesus uses the term “I am”, possibly to claim the name of God, or just because it is grammatically correct.
 5. The statement claiming that he would be “seated at the right hand of Power” was heard as a synonym for God.
- 14:63 – **“And the high priest tore his garments and said, “What further witnesses do we need?”**
1. Claiming to judge the high priest and claiming to be God and claiming to be Messiah all would be considered blaspheme.
- 14:64 – **“You have heard his blasphemy. What is your decision?” And they all condemned him as deserving death.**
- 14:65 – **“And some began to spit on him and to cover his face and to strike him, saying to him, “Prophecy!” And the guards received him with blows.**
1. While Jesus was being rejected and mocked, Peter began his denial
- 14:66 – **“And as Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant girls of the high priest came,**

1. Jesus was in the house upstairs with the high priest.

2. Peter was still downstairs in the courtyard outside. The palace of the high priest was terraced.

14:67 – **“and seeing Peter warming himself, she looked at him and said, “You also were with the Nazarene, Jesus.”**

1. “servant girl” of the High Priest was a slave woman who spoke with scorn of Jesus calling him “the Nazarene”

2. Peter is not in a friendly crowd

14:68 – **“But he denied it, saying, “I neither know nor understand what you mean.” And he went out into the gateway and the rooster crowed.**

1. “Gateway” could also be “forecourt”

2. Peter’s denial was spoken in a legal manner of denying the accusation

3. Peter leaves the light of the fire to the enclosure and shadows of the gateway leading into the courtyard for protection.

14:69 – **“And the servant girl saw him and began again to say to the bystanders, “This man is one of them.”**

1. Now in the shadows a second servant girl sees Peter

2. She begins to whisper in Peter’s hearing to those near by that, “This man is one of them.”

14:70 – **“But again he denied it. And after a little while the bystanders again said to Peter, “Certainly you are one of them, for you are a Galilean.”**

1. In the Greek Peter repeatedly denies that he is with Jesus.

2. For the third time bystanders from a third source identify Peter as a Galilean who must be with Jesus and his group.

3. Luke indicates this third accusation came about an hour later – Luke 22:59 -

“And after an interval of about an hour still another insisted, saying, “Certainly this man also was with him, for he too is a Galilean.”

14:71 – **“But he began to invoke a curse on himself and to swear, “I do not know this man of whom you speak.”**

1. Peter does two things here by calling down God's judgment on himself if he was lying by cursing and swearing:

a. Cursing means he put himself under a curse.

b. Swearing means he affirmed the truthfulness of his words with oaths.

14:72 – **“And immediately the rooster crowed a second time. And Peter remembered how Jesus had said to him, “Before the rooster crows twice, you will deny me three times.” And he broke down and wept.**

1. The first crow of the rooster in 14:68 after the very first of the three denials should have served as a warning, but Peter missed it and continued in his denial until the prophecy was fulfilled

Jesus' Religious Trials

1. Before Annas John 18:12-14, 19-24

2. Before Caiaphas Matt. 26:57-68; Mark 14:53-65; Luke 22:54, 63-65

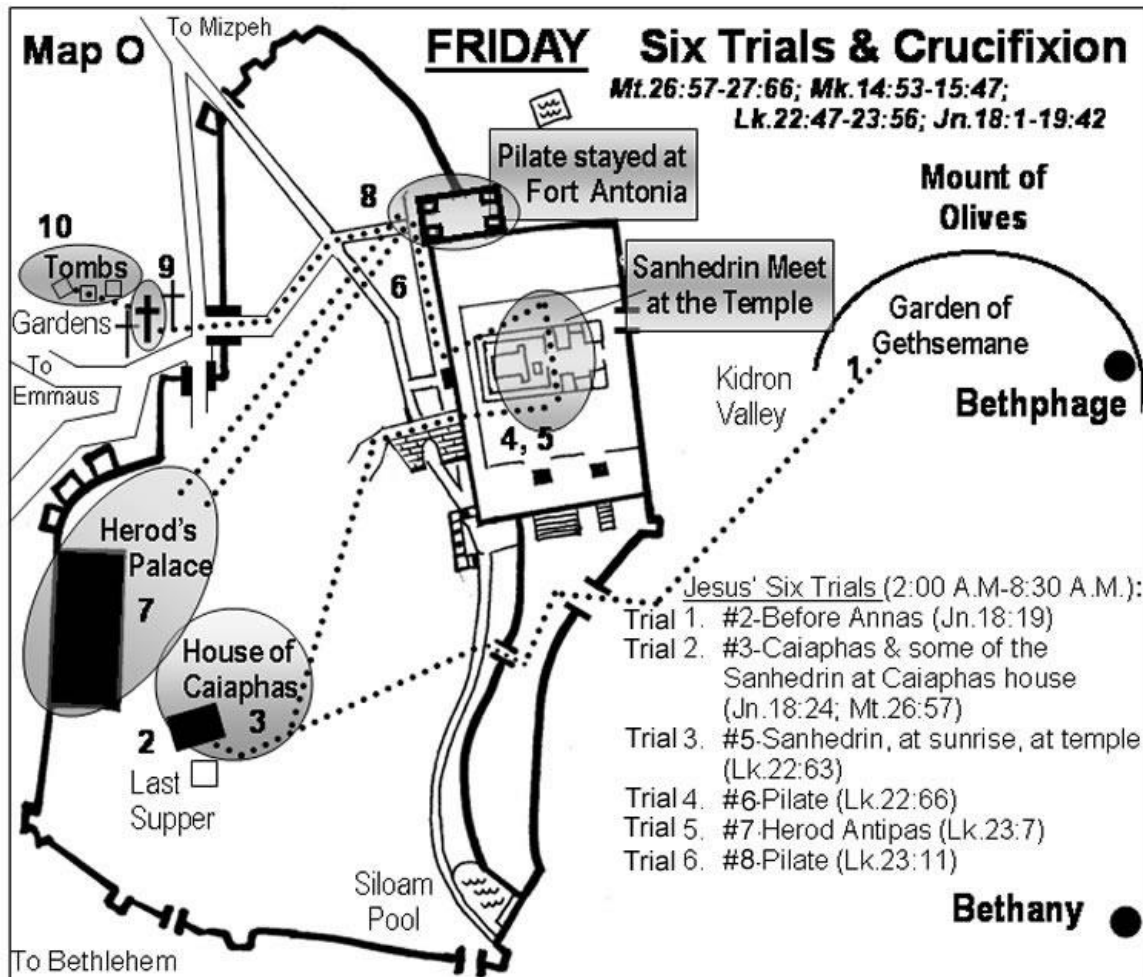
3. Before the Sanhedrin Matt. 27:1; Mark 15:1; Luke 22:66-71

Jesus' Civil Trials

4. Before Pilate Matt. 27:2, 11-14; Mark 15:1-5; Luke 23:1-5; John 18:28-38

5. Before Herod Antipas Luke 23:6-12

6. Before Pilate Matt. 27:15-26; Mark 15:6-15; Luke 23:13-25; Jn 18:39-19:16



1. About 2:00 A.M. Jesus is betrayed and arrested in Gethsemane. (Jn 18:1)
2. Jesus is taken to appear before Annas, the former high priest. Jesus is interrogated and slapped (Jn.18:19) Peter denies Jesus. (Jn.18:15)
3. About 3:00 A.M. Annas sends Jesus, still bound, to the current high priest, Caiaphas. (Jn.18:24) Some of the members of the Sanhedrin assemble at Caiaphas' palace/house for a preliminary trial of Jesus. (Mt.26:57) Peter denies Jesus again. (Jn.18:25)
4. The soldiers mock and beat Jesus while the Sanhedrin assembles at the temple for the "official" trial at the temple after sunrise. (Lk.22:63)
5. At sunrise, about 5:15, Jesus is led before the Sanhedrin at the temple. Jesus testifies that he is the Son of God. He is led to Pilate. (Lk.22:66)
6. At about 6:00 A.M. Jesus is on the pavement in front of Fort Antonia where Pilate stays. Pilate questions Jesus. Pilate learns Jesus is from Galilee and sends him over to Herod's Palace in Jerusalem.
7. At about 6:45 A.M. Jesus appears before Herod Antipas (Lk.23:7) Jesus will not speak. Herod sends Jesus back to Pilate in a royal robe.(Lk.23:11)
8. Between 7:30-8:30 Pilate tries several times to release Jesus. Pilate speaks with Jesus. Jesus is beaten and sentenced to crucifixion. The soldiers in the Praetorium (Antonia) mock, spit on & hit Jesus (Mt.27:27)
9. Jesus carries the cross outside the city walls. He is crucified at 9:00 A.M. (Lk.23:26; Mt.27:31)
10. By 3:00 in the afternoon Jesus is dead. He is buried in a tomb near by.

Option One

Map O To Mizpeh

FRIDAY **Six Trials & Crucifixion**
*Mt.26:57-27:66; Mk.14:53-15:47;
 Lk.22:47-23:56; Jn.18:1-19:42*

Mount of Olives

Garden of Gethsemane

Bethphage

Kidron Valley

Sanhedrin Meet at the Temple

#3

Herod Antipas Hasmonean Palace

#5

#4

#6

Pilate

Herod's Palace

House of Caiaphas

#2

#1

Last Supper

Siloam Pool

To Bethlehem

Bethany

Jesus' Six Trials (2:00 A.M.-8:30 A.M.):
 Trial #1—Before Annas (Jn.18:19)
 Trial #2—Caiaphas & some of the Sanhedrin at Caiaphas house (Jn.18:24; Mt.26:57)
 Trial #3—Sanhedrin, at sunrise, at temple (Lk.22:63)
 Trial #4—Pilate (Lk.22:66)
 Trial #5—Herod Antipas (Lk.23:7)
 Trial #6—Pilate (Lk.23:11)

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Option Two