

JESUS FALSELY ACCUSED...FOR ME *My Substitute (Part 3)*

I. UNDERSTANDING THE JEWISH LEGAL SYSTEM

¹⁸ 'You shall appoint judges and officers in all your towns that the Lord your God is giving you, according to your tribes, and they shall judge the people with righteous judgment. ¹⁹ You shall not pervert justice. You shall not show partiality, and you shall not accept a bribe, for a bribe blinds the eyes of the wise and subverts the cause of the righteous. ²⁰ Justice, and only justice, you shall follow, that you may live and inherit the land that the Lord your God is giving you.' Deuteronomy 16:18-20 (ESV)

Three Requirements For Conviction:

- A. A public trial**
- B. A defense council**
- C. Two reliable witnesses**

Four Key Names:

- A. Annas**
- B. Caiaphas**
- C. Pilate**
- D. Herod**

II. UNDERSTANDING THE INJUSTICE OF JESUS' TRIALS

⁵⁴ Then they seized him and led him away, bringing him into the high priest's house, and Peter was following at a distance." Luke 22:54 (ESV)

- A. The time and place of the trial were unjust.**

⁶⁶ When day came, the assembly of the elders of the people gathered together, both chief priests and scribes. And they led him away to their council, and they said," Luke 22:66 (ESV)

- B. The trial process was unjust.**

⁶⁷ 'If you are the Christ, tell us.' But he said to them, 'If I tell you, you will not believe, ⁶⁸ and if I ask you, you will not answer. ⁶⁹ But from now on the Son of Man shall be seated at the right hand of the power of God.'" Luke 22:67-69 (ESV)

²¹ “Why do you ask me? Ask those who have heard me what I said to them; they know what I said.” ²² When he had said these things, one of the officers standing by struck Jesus with his hand, saying, ‘Is that how you answer the high priest?’ ²³ Jesus answered him, ‘If what I said is wrong, bear witness about the wrong; but if what I said is right, why do you strike me?’” John 18:21-23 (ESV)

C. The use of witnesses was unjust.

⁴¹ Then the whole company of them arose and brought him before Pilate. ² And they began to accuse him, saying, “We found this man misleading our nation and forbidding us to give tribute to Caesar, and saying that he himself is Christ, a king.” Luke 23:1-2 (ESV)

⁶⁹ Now the chief priests and the whole Council were seeking false testimony against Jesus that they might put him to death, ⁶⁰ but they found none, though many false witnesses came forward. At last two came forward ⁶¹ and said, ‘This man said, “I am able to destroy the temple of God, and to rebuild it in three days.”’” Matthew 26:59-61 (ESV)

D. The conviction was unjust.

⁷⁰ So they all said, ‘Are you the Son of God, then?’ And he said to them, ‘You say that I am.’” Luke 22:70 (ESV)

⁴ Then Pilate said to the chief priests and the crowds, ‘I find no guilt in this man.’ ⁵ But they were urgent, saying, ‘He stirs up the people, teaching throughout all Judea, from Galilee even to this place.’ ⁶ When Pilate heard this, he asked whether the man was a Galilean. ⁷ And when he learned that he belonged to Herod’s jurisdiction, he sent him over to Herod, who was himself in Jerusalem at that time. ⁸ When Herod saw Jesus, he was very glad, for he had long desired to see him, because he had heard about him, and he was hoping to see some sign done by him. ⁹ So he questioned him at some length, but he made no answer. ¹⁰ The chief priests and the scribes stood by, vehemently accusing him. ¹¹ And Herod with his soldiers treated him with contempt and mocked him. Then, arraying him in splendid clothing, he sent him back to Pilate. ¹² And Herod and Pilate became friends with each other that very day, for before this they had been at enmity with each other. ¹³ Pilate then called together the chief priests and the rulers and the people, ¹⁴ and said to them, ‘You brought me this man as one who was misleading the people. And after examining him before you, behold, I did not find this man guilty of any of your charges against him. ¹⁵ Neither did Herod, for he sent him back to us. Look, nothing deserving death has been done by him. ¹⁶ I will therefore punish and release him.’ ¹⁷¹⁸ But they all cried out together, ‘Away with this man, and release to us Barabbas’— ¹⁹ a man who had been thrown into prison for an insurrection started in the city and for murder. ²⁰ Pilate addressed them once more, desiring to release Jesus, ²¹ but they kept shouting, ‘Crucify, crucify him!’ ²² A third time he said to them, ‘Why, what evil has he done? I have found in him no guilt deserving death. I will therefore punish and release him.’ ²³ But they were urgent, demanding with loud cries that he should be crucified. And their voices prevailed. ²⁴ So Pilate decided that their demand should be granted. ²⁵ He released

the man who had been thrown into prison for insurrection and murder, for whom they asked, but he delivered Jesus over to their will.” Luke 23:4-25 (ESV)

E. The sentencing was unjust.

III. WHAT CAN WE LEARN FROM THE INJUSTICE OF JESUS’ TRIALS?

A. A picture of evil when we doubt our own depravity.

“⁹ The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it?” Jeremiah 17:9 (ESV)

B. A proof of innocence when we doubt Christ’s uniqueness.

“¹⁵ For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.” Hebrews 4:15 (ESV)

C. A pattern of Godliness when we’re falsely accused.

JESUS’ PLAN FOR DEALING WITH FALSE ACCUSATION:

- 1. Silence in the face of foolishness.**
- 2. A simple statement of truth where essential.**
- 3. Quiet confidence in the ultimate justice of God.**

“¹⁷ ‘no weapon that is fashioned against you shall succeed, and you shall confute every tongue that rises against you in judgment. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord and their vindication from me, declares the Lord.’” Isaiah 54:17 (ESV)

“¹⁴ ‘The Lord will fight for you, and you have only to be silent.’” Exodus 14:14 (ESV)

“¹⁰ ‘Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!’” Psalm 46:10 (ESV)

“²⁰ For what credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure? But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God.” 1 Peter 2:20 (ESV)