

## The Trial – Sanhedrin

- Judgment had already been made

“The chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin were looking for false evidence against Jesus so that they could put him to death.”

*-Matthew 26:59*

- Legal Standard – Two Witnesses

“On the testimony of two or three witnesses a man shall be put to death, but no one shall be put to death on the testimony of only one witness.”

*-Deuteronomy 17:6*

- Witnesses Weren’t Aligning

“Many testified falsely against him, but their testimony did not agree.”

*-Mark 14:56*

- Jesus Testified Against Himself

“They all asked him, ‘Are you then the Son of God?’ He replied, ‘You are right in saying that I am.’ Then they said, ‘Why do we need any more testimony? We have heard it from his own lips.’” *-Luke 22:70-71*

- Jesus Condemned Himself

“Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, ‘He has spoken blasphemy! Why do we need any more witnesses?’ . . . ‘He is worthy of death,’ they all answered.”

*-Matthew 26:65-66*

- Jesus Condemned Himself

“When they hurled insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly.”

- Jesus Condemned Himself

“He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed.”

*-1 Peter 2:23-24*

## The Trial – Pilate

- Jews Needed Roman Help

“The Jews insisted, ‘We have a law, and according to that law he must die’”

*-John 19:7*

“Pilate said, ‘Take him yourselves and judge him by your own law.’ ‘But we have no right to execute anyone,’ the Jews objected.”

*-John 18:31*

- Objective Judge Declared Jesus Innocent

“For the third time he spoke to them: ‘Why? What crime has he committed? I have found in him no grounds for the death penalty.’”

*-Luke 23:22*

- Political Considerations Trumped Justice

“From then on, Pilate tried to set Jesus free, but the Jews kept shouting, ‘If you let this man go, you are no friend of Caesar. Anyone who claims to be a king opposes Caesar.’”

*-John 19:12*

“When Pilate saw that he was getting nowhere, but that instead an uproar was starting, he took water and washed his hands”

*-Matthew 27:24*

- Unjust? Yes and No

“By a perversion of justice he was taken away. Who could have imagined his future? For he was cut off from the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people.”

*-Isaiah 53:8 (NRSV)*

“God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”

*-2 Corinthians 5:21*

“Finally Pilate handed him over to them to be crucified.”

*-John 19:16*