When Angry Men Judge God

Luke 22:63-71
January 19, 2024

The Big Idea: It is possible to study the Scriptures, know many of the basic teachings, and participate faithfully in religious services and still not know and trust Jesus. Each of us must decide what we will do considering the claims of Christ.

A QUICK LOOK AT THE "TRIALS" OF JESUS

Religious Hearings	Civil Hearings
Annas (former High Priest	Pilate
Caiaphas (ruling High Priest)	Herod Antipas
Full Sanhedrin	Pilate

→ The Sanhedrin (supreme Jewish Council) could condemn someone to death but required the civil rulers to approve the execution.
→ Jewish leaders charged Jesus with "blasphemy" (which the Romans didn't care about) but to earn the approval of Rome explained it as Jesus claiming to be a King (of the Jews).

Luke 22:63-71 (ESV)

63 Now ***the men who were holding Jesus*** in custody were *mocking him* as they *beat him*. 64 They also *blindfolded him* and kept asking him, "Prophesy! Who is it that struck you?" 65 And they said many other things against him, *blaspheming him*.

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, 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."

70 So they all said, "Are you the Son of God, then?" And he said to them, "You say that I am." 71 Then they said, "What further testimony do we need? We have heard it ourselves from his own lips."

The Identity of Jesus in Dispute

- ◊ The Christ [Matthew 16:13-16]
- ◊ The Son of Man [Daniel 7:13-14; 82 times in the Gospels; Luke 19:10]
- ◊ The Son of God [John 20:30-31]

Jesus On Trial in Each of Our Hearts

1. The claims of Jesus cannot be ignored by any of us.
2. Every one of us has a sin nature and is enslaved by sin. Sin promises life but can only result in death. Sin rejects Jesus and kills us.
3. Only Jesus can deliver us from sin and give us life. Faith (believing and trusting Jesus) only arises in the mind and heart of those who understand that Jesus is the only Son of God, the Son of Man, and the Christ. Faith = Belief + Trust

SPIRITUAL LESSONS:

- ◊ When someone has rejected Christ and their heart is turned against Him, no amount of conversation will cause them to see Jesus for who He is. The Guard have no real interest in hearing from Jesus except to hear Him say something they can use as a charge against Him, to justify what they want to do – kill Him.
- ◊ Honest seekers of Truth will find that Jesus welcomes their questions and He will gladly show them He is both Son of God and Son of Man – our Divine and Human Savior.
- ◊ Today, in a sense, you "judge" Jesus – you have arrived at a position of belief about His identity and claims. Soon, when Jesus returns, He will be the one who rightfully sits in judgment on the lives of all of us. What will He find in you?

"My faith rests not upon what I am or shall be or feel or know,
but in what Christ is, in what He has done, and
in what He is now doing for me. Hallelujah!"
- Charles Spurgeon