

**OVERCOMING TRIALS OF DENIALS AND BEGUILLES**  
**Sermon Outline & Devotional Guide**  
**January 25, 2026**  
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- + Matthew 10:39, *If you cling to your life, you will lose it; but if you give up your life for Me, you will find it* (NLT).
- + Mark 8:35, *"For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it"* (NASB)

**When Your Back Is Pushed Against The Wall . . .**

**1. Who do you look to for \_\_\_\_\_? (John 18:4-8).**

- + James 2:19, *"You believe that there is one God. Good for you! Even the demons believe this, and they tremble in terror"* (NLT).

**2. Who do you allow to \_\_\_\_\_ you? (John 18:4-8).**

- + 2 Corinthians 5:17, *This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!"* (NLT).

**3. Who do you look to for \_\_\_\_\_? (John 18:9).**

- + John 18:12-14, *"So the soldiers, their commanding officer, and the Temple guards arrested Jesus and tied him up. <sup>13</sup>First they took him to Annas, since he was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, the high priest at that time. <sup>14</sup>Caiaphas was the one who had told the other Jewish leaders, 'It's better that one man should die for the people'"* (NLT).

**9 Old Testament & Jewish Laws Annas, Caiaphas & The Sanhedrin Broke to Put Jesus On Trial**

1. They did not have the right number of \_\_\_\_\_ in the trials.
2. The witnesses were not in \_\_\_\_\_.
3. The \_\_\_\_\_ kept changing from trial to trial.
4. The law stated that no man charged with a capital crime, one deserving of death, could be arrested at \_\_\_\_\_. Jesus was \_\_\_\_\_.
5. If a man was arrested for a capital crime, no one who cooperated in the arrest could in any way be \_\_\_\_\_ with the accused. Judas was \_\_\_\_\_.
6. No trial could be held at \_\_\_\_\_ so that all would be in the light and open to all to see.
7. No Jewish court was to \_\_\_\_\_ pass judgment on a capital crime. They were to wait \_\_\_\_\_ days to see if any wished to express compassion.
8. Witnesses had to be called and questioned \_\_\_\_\_ an arrest could be made. The first thing Annas does is question Jesus prior to questioning any witnesses. Violation of Jewish law.
9. No questions could be asked of the accused that might cause that person to \_\_\_\_\_ himself/herself.

**The Six Illegal Trials Of Jesus**

1. The first one illegal trial is before \_\_\_\_\_. We read about this in John 18:12-23. There were no specific charges..
2. We read about this second trial before \_\_\_\_\_, the high priest, in Matthew 26:57-68; Mark 14:53-65' and John 18:24.
3. We read about the third illegal trial with the \_\_\_\_\_ in Mark 15:1 and Luke 22:66-71. The Sanhedrin was the Jewish Supreme Court that consisted of 73 men. These first 3 trial were all Jewish or religious trials
4. We read about the 4th illegal trial with \_\_\_\_\_ in Matthew 27:11-14; Mark 15:2-5; Luke 23:1-7 and John 18:28-38.
5. The fifth illegal trial was with \_\_\_\_\_ and we see this in Luke 23:8-12 and there were no specific charges. This was a trial that proved the \_\_\_\_\_ of the accused and the \_\_\_\_\_ of the accusers.

6. We read about the 6th trial with \_\_\_\_\_ in Matt. 27:15-26; Mark 15:6-16; Luke 23:13-25, & John 18:39-19:16. The last 3 trials were political trials by Rome.

- But notice, God took an unfair trial, held by unrighteous people, and used it to accomplish His \_\_\_\_\_ – Jesus going to the cross.
- There's a verdict in all of this. It comes even before the trials are finished. Jesus is \_\_\_\_\_.
- The main reason people reject Christ is we don't want to \_\_\_\_\_.

### Why Did Peter Deny Jesus 3 Times? Possibly Because of . . .

- (a) \_\_\_\_\_ > Why? \_\_\_\_\_ plan and \_\_\_\_\_ plan did not match.  
(b) \_\_\_\_\_ > Why? The fear of the \_\_\_\_\_ can be terrifying.  
(c) \_\_\_\_\_ > Why? His greatest weakness was the inability to \_\_\_\_\_ his greatest weakness.

- What these remind us is that when we are at our height spiritually, we are vulnerable to not \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus, but to \_\_\_\_\_ from Jesus. We are vulnerable not to \_\_\_\_\_ upon Jesus, but to \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus.
- Look at John 18:29-31, 33-35, 38.

### Pilate Revealed 4 Important Truths About Himself In His 4 Questions To Jesus

- (a) When Pilate asks, "Are You the King of the Jews?" He confesses his \_\_\_\_\_ (vs. 33)  
(b) When he says, "Do you think I am a Jew?" He confesses his \_\_\_\_\_ (vs. 34).  
(c) When Pilate asked "What is it that you've done?" Pilate confessed his \_\_\_\_\_ (Matt. 27:19).  
(d) When Pilate asked, "What is truth?", he confessed his \_\_\_\_\_ (vs. 38).

### Jesus Spoke Truths To Pilate

- (a) I am a King but My kingdom is \_\_\_\_\_, not \_\_\_\_\_.  
(b) I am a King who came to tell the \_\_\_\_\_ because I am the \_\_\_\_\_ Truth.  
(c) I am a King who has been \_\_\_\_\_ by My own chosen people to be their Messiah. The verdict is in about Jesus. He is \_\_\_\_\_.

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### Next Steps Devotional Guide

1. Do you really want to change for Christ? Do you honestly recognize and admit your greatest weakness?
2. When you are at your most success, do you trust Jesus or turn away from Him? Depend on Him or deny Him?
3. Are you ever like Pilate — you confess your knowledge of Jesus, your prejudice against Jesus and your cynicism of His call on your life?
4. When do your doubts, fears and pride cause you to deny Jesus?
5. Is your relationship of Christ one of questioning Him or trusting Him consistently? Why?
6. Moses pridefully battled anger. David pridefully battled lust. Solomon pridefully battled pride. Abraham pridefully battled self-sufficiency. Noah pridefully battled own persistence. Recognizing your greatest weakness is how you turn it into a strength. What is yours and how do you battle it and take this to the Lord?