THE SANHEDIN TRIAL 22:54-71

In 2 parts: (a) In the High Priests **House** – at night: **illegal!**
(b) Before the Assembly the following day: **Legal**

22:54 After His arrest Jesus was taken to the High Priest's **HOUSE**!! **Caiaphas**

22:55 Luke gives all attention **to Peter** first. **He is tried before and in the presence of his Master**

Peter's Trial

- Peter, the chief apostle followed at a **DISTANCE** (minding himself)
  - He joined the enemies of Jesus at a fire in the courtyard
  - He is in the wrong company and at the **wrong** fire!

- The **true fire** for Peter is given in 12:49 ***"I have come to bring fire to the earth"***

- And **Acts 2:3-4** ***"Something appeared to them like tongues of fire… they were all filled with the Holy Spirit"***

- **Our choice** is the purifying Fire of Heaven or the destructive fire of Hell: Lk 3:16-18

- Hiding among Jesus' enemies is **NOT** a place **of GRACE** → **but of shame.**

22:56-61 So, under pressure from those who **recognised him AS A DISCIPLE,** Peter denied his Master 3 times – as Jesus had said.

- Cf. Lk 12:9 ***"But the man who disowns me in the presence of men will be disowned in the presence of God's angels".***

Peter does not know what **danger** he is in! **But** in all the chaos Jesus turned and caught Peter's eye… And then Peter remembered… and wept and repented to become **PETER OF JESUS, a new man**!

- *"the lowest ebb is the turning of the tide"* Jesus' **LOVE** rescued Peter yet again
→ Peter had to be saved **FROM HIMSELF**!

Jesus is Abused and Tortured 22:63-71

Stage I

22:63-65 The Temple Guards – who were employed to protect God's House, (temple). kept mocking and beating Jesus – this fulfills His own prediction in **18:32**
"that He would be mocked, maltreated and spat upon"

Provocation!

- Who hit you then? Jesus knew it was the guards who hit him. He did not have to be a prophet to gain this knowledge! Everyone knew.

- (NB) The High Priest allowed this abuse of Jesus in his presence – with the guards employed by him! **What a disgrace** for **his office**!

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- It is certainly **"Night" for Jesus!** - and for His apostles who ran away!
  - **They** were left in an unnecessary darkness of understanding **because** they refused to pray for help. Now **confusion** visits them…

  - They thought Jesus was going to establish an earthly kingdom with them in the top jobs! Cf. 22:24-25.
  - Now no one has jobs – or kingdom – apparently…
  - (NB) They have **no idea** that Jesus will be executed! **Not even Judas!!**

Stage 2

22:66-70 Jesus is brought before the **whole** Sanhedrin (70 members)

(i) It consisted of Elders – some of whom were lay – from aristocratic families
(ii) Also the priests in their various ranks (Sadducees)
(iii) Scribes, which also included Pharisees.

∴ Jesus is now arraigned before the **full Religious Authority of Israel**
- like being arraigned before the Pope, Cardinals, Bishops, etc. today

- Josephus, the Historian, in 'Antiquities' 14:167-184 relates **how** they treated those who came before them…

Jesus can **expect NO JUSTICE**: **Death** is on their minds and a man condemned to death had **no rights** – so they abused him as they wished.

22:67 They came to the point quickly: ***'Are you the Christ?"***

Jesus replied with respect, but **NO** fear: **a man of God fears no-one. Lk 12:4**
- He told them truthfully that they would **NEVER** accept or believe

But

22:68 He honours them with a prophesy! ***"From now on*** (after Passion / Death) ***the Son of Man will be seated at the right hand of the Power of God".***

(NB) - This was fulfilled in **Acts 7:55** when Stephen – testifying before the **same** Sanhedrin saw Jesus in glory: they still killed Stephen!
- They were having **none of it! Yet they have to face Him in His Final Coming.**

- Jesus **tried** to tell them that **The REAL ISSUE was not** Political liberation from Rome – but Spiritual Liberation through Redemption…

  (NB)
  - **These men cannot grasp that the Passover Lamb is with them!**
  - That He was the fulfillment of all their hopes and dreams!

22:70
- The whole Council together asked Jesus **if He was the Son of God!**
  - This is a different issue to that of Messiah
  - They expected the Messiah to be **merely human**

- ***"It is you who say that I am".*** This is a careful affirmative
  - They consider His claim to divine Sonship **Blasphemy** and **for this** reason they will kill him.

But
- They want Pilate to do the dirty work **for** them!
- Everyone knew Pilate would not hesitate **TO CRUCIFY a Jew**
- They want Jesus **CRUCIFIED** (ie) **destroyed** in the eyes of the People.

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CHAPTER 23

Jesus arraigned before Prefects (Pilate) and Kings (Herod): 23:1-12; Cf. 21:12!

A. BEFORE THE ROMAN GOVENOR: 2-7

- The Sanhedrin brought Jesus to Pilate!
  It should have been **beneath their dignity** to do such a thing!

  - Jesus is now "handed over" **(betrayed)** to the Gentiles (18:32)
  - Jesus' prophecy (3rd of Passion) is fulfilled

    … to be mocked, abused, spat upon, scourged and put to death. Lk 18:31-34

The Legal Process Begins

- They must **CHARGE** Jesus with **public offenses** before the Governor.
  - Pilate would have arrested Jesus before now **if he did stir up the people to revolt**
  - He kept a watchful eye on Jerusalem… had spies everywhere.

FIRST CHARGE:

The charge is **legal** and must be serious

(i) Inciting people to revolt — (entry into Jerusalem) (cleansing the Temple)

(ii) Opposing payment of taxes to Caesar: cf. 20:20-26 where Jesus taught the opposite – **and in public**

(iii) Claims to be **CHRIST** (correct) and King (correct): [entry into Jerusalem]

- Pilate picks up on the **Kingship** – for that is a **Political** matter to **him**
  - so Jesus is **"King of the Jews"** cf. 23:38 **The inscription on the Cross**

23:5

- Pilate declares Jesus innocent of the charges → **FIRST DECLARATION**

  NOTICE: that **A CROWD OF PEOPLE** has gathered **to watch** the proceedings just as Peter wanted just to **watch** the proceedings earlier.
  - So, **they now** join the enemies of Jesus… and the Satanic influence there.

SECOND CHARGE

Inflaming the people with his **teaching** from Galilee to Jerusalem.
- covers his whole journey of evangelising…

- Pilate was so uncomfortable and sent Jesus off to **"The King of the Jews"!!**

Jesus Before Herod 23:8-12 → Herod Antipas in charge of Galilee

- As a Galilean, Jesus came under Herod's jurisdiction…
  - Herod Antipas was Tetrarch of Galilee cf. Lk 3:3
  - He had a magnificent palace in Jerusalem

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23:8

- Herod had wanted to see Jesus for some time (9:9) + (13:31-33)
  - For **"he had heard about him"** from all the reports of miracles
  - He wanted to see a miracle himself! - just curiosity (cf. Lk 11:29-30)

23:9

- Herod questioned Jesus at some length but Jesus **REMAINED SILENT.**
  Jesus' silence is **ominous** for Herod! If the Lord refuses to speak to you….!
  Jesus is God Incarnate! He is Word of God Incarnate!

- If He has nothing to say to a soul – that soul is in grave trouble!
  - Herod's life style had been rebuked by John the Baptist
  - But his response was **not repentance**
  - Instead, he killed the prophet! Lk 3:19-20
  - Since God has **already** spoken to this man through John, **He has nothing MORE to say!**

23:10 The chief priests and scribes **KEPT accusing Jesus.**

23:11 Then Herod showed his true colours by **treating Jesus with CONTEMPT**

- He **AND** his guards abused Jesus! … some **King**!!
- This petty King who had ¼$_{th}$ of a kingdom = **TETRARCH,** abused the King of Kings and Lord of Lords!
  → It must have been a terrible shock for him to meet Jesus after he died!!
  for Jesus was his **JUDGE**.

Then Herod put a princely **ROBE** on Jesus to mock his Kingship!

But

Jesus accepted *the Robe of Mockery* in order to pay the price to give us
the Robe of Righteousness

cf. Is 53:7:

"He was oppressed and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is dumb, so he opened not his mouth."

Cf. 1 Pet 2:22-25

"Christ suffered for you and left an example for you to follow the way he took.
He had not done anything wrong and there had been no perjury in His mouth.
He was insulted and did not retaliate with insults;
When he was tortured he made no threats but he put his trust in the righteous judge.
He was bearing our faults in his own body on the Cross
– so that we might die to our faults and live for holiness;
through his wounds you have been healed."

Notice (1) Luke has portrayed both Pilate and Herod as **murderers**
Herod killed John the Baptist in 9:9
Pilate killed a Galilean in 13:1-2

Very interesting points in St Luke

But

(2) Jesus is arraigned before **both** of them and they are **very reluctant to KILL Him.** { His **HOLINESS** was obvious to everyone!
His **REPUTATION** was **known** throughout the land.

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(3) Both Pilate and Herod **KNEW** that the accusations against Him **WERE FALSE!**

(4) Both Pilate and Herod **declared Him INNOCENT**
- Pilate x 3 times and Herod here in this text cf. 23:15

NB **The Chief Priests** et alia are shown in a **very bad light** by Luke.

(i) They mock and abuse Jesus: 22:63-65
(ii) They decide to kill Him: 22:70-71
(iii) They hand Him over to the Secular powers: 23 onwards
(iv) They falsely accuse Him to Pilate: 23:2
(v) They persist in pushing the charges: 23:5
(vi) They go with Jesus to Herod and **violently press** their charges: 23:10

In the text of the Passion it is the Chief Priests who stir up the crowd to threaten a riot!

The present passage shows us that they were lying when the told Jesus in 13:31 that Herod wanted to kill him!
→ Here Herod has the opportunity – and the permission from Pilate and he does nothing of the sort!

(vii) When they fail with Herod, the chief priests **took the crowd with them** back to Pilate determined to get what they wanted **AT ANY COST**!!

Jesus Condemned to Death: 23:13-32

This meeting is out-of-doors and **open to the public**
(the other meetings with Pilate and Herod were private).

23:13 Pilate summons the Sanhedrin – for they are the accusers…
- the people **should** have been **the Jury** – but they joined the Leaders…

- Jesus has no-one to defend Him – not even the Apostles or friends…

23:14 Pilate leads the gathering declaring Jesus innocent of the charges twice more, v 14, 22.
Altogether he gave **a triple declaration of innocence.**

∴ Everyone – Priest and People – know that Jesus will be martyred, **just because He is Himself!**
He is without sin: Jn 8:46

vs 4 Pilate declared (i) That He was innocent of the charges brought by Leaders
vs 14 (ii) He is innocent of leading the people astray
vs 22 (iii) He is innocent of all evil

∴ Luke clarifies **two major issues about Jesus** and **Christianity**

(i) He had no political agenda – neither had the Church later
- He had no intention of conquering Rome and becoming King Himself.
- The Church spread fast in the Roman Empire – proving it, too, followed its Lord.

Yet it took 3½ centuries for the Lord to fulfill Mary's prophecy in the Magnificat:
"He has pulled down princes from their thrones and raised up the lowly" Lk 1:52

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