

Week of June 16 - The Trial

Small Group Lesson 7

Connect

Have you ever been punished for doing something that you did not do?

Verses - Matthew 26:57-68 (CSB)

57 Those who had arrested Jesus led him away to Caiaphas the high priest,
where the scribes and the elders had convened. 58 Peter was following him
at a distance, right to the high priest's courtyard. He went in and was sitting
with the servants to see the outcome.

59 The chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin were looking for false
testimony against Jesus so that they could put him to death, 60 but they
could not find any, even though many false witnesses came forward. Finally,
two who came forward 61 stated, "This man said, 'I can destroy the temple
of God and rebuild it in three days.'"

62 The high priest stood up and said to him, "Don't you have an answer to
what these men are testifying against you?" 63 But Jesus kept silent. The
high priest said to him, "I charge you under oath by the living God: Tell us if
you are the Messiah, the Son of God."

64 "You have said it," Jesus told him. "But I tell you, in the future you will see
the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power and coming on the clouds
of heaven."

65 Then the high priest tore his robes and said, "He has blasphemed! Why
do we still need witnesses? See, now you've heard the blasphemy. 66 What is
your decision?"

They answered, "He deserves death!" 67 Then they spat in his face and beat
him; others slapped him 68 and said, "Prophesy to us, Messiah! Who was it
that hit you?"

Study

1. When answering questions a-c, please consider all political, legal, social, religious, spiritual, and other perspectives that may occur to you.
   a. Why did the Jewish leaders want to see Jesus put to death?
   b. Who and what were preventing them from killing Jesus?
   c. What was accomplished by the "trial" described in Matthew 26:57-68?

2. As Peter watched the "trial" (26:58) what possible outcomes do you think he was watching for?

3. With what crime did the Jewish leaders finally charge Jesus? (26:65a)

4. **DISCUSS:** Jesus did not commit blasphemy. He could have defended himself and escaped death and dishonor. But in the "trial" described in vv 57-68, his responses seem calculated to inflame his accusers and hasten his death. Why? What was Jesus doing?

5. **APPLY**: As Christians, how do we know when we are called to imitate Jesus and endure false charges, suffering, and death so that God's will shall be done?

Prayer

※ Praise God, for he is the source of all life, of every blessing in life, and of the perfect eternal life to come.

※ Thank God for his Son Jesus, by whose stripes we are healed. Ask God to help us know He and his Son so much better than we do now, so that we may love them more and be more loving to others in their name.

※ Ask the Holy Spirit to be always beside us teaching, leading, and helping in all that we do, and that He will be in us continually sanctifying and preparing us for eternal life.

※ Pray for one another as the Spirit moves you.