

John 61 – Trial of Annas, Peter and Christ

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John 18:12-24

John's Distinctives

- John's Gospel is distinctive from the Synoptic (*With One Eye*) Gospels as previously discussed; John alone:
 - Details Christ being brought first to Annas' house
 - Details Annas' house as the start of Peter's peirasmos
- A Galilean fisherman, John's family had ties to Annas
 - John allowed in and got Peter into the courtyard

Two High Priests?

- John calls Annas high priest but also uses the term in reference to Caiaphas also; why?
 - Under Roman rule the high priest was appointed by Roman governors according to their ability to:
 - Work within the Roman system: Peace and Taxes
 - Intercessor between Jewish and Roman systems
 - Annas was deposed by Romans but Caiaphas held office

The office of the High Priest was for life then passed down to the eldest son
Thus, once appointed High Priest the title was held for life even if deposed and another appointed
Annas would have been the *de facto* high priest in Jewish eyes even if not in Roman eyes

Jewish System Arrested Christ

- Jewish Sanhedrin, with Temple police force, arrested Christ under the watchful eye of Annas
 - Caiaphas, as current High Priest, prophesized Jesus should die for the nation (for all to be saved)
 - Temple guard led by an officer
 - Each political group sent officials to oversee the proceedings to speak for their particular groups

John Brought Peter to Trial

- John's family had upper level connections in Jewish political, religious society evidenced by the fact:
 - John could enter Annas' courtyard
 - John able to get Peter, a stranger, into the courtyard
- Without John's influence, Peter would not have been in position to be questioned about and then deny Christ (Best of intentions used of Satan) (Jn. 8:28-30)

First Phase of Peter's Testing

- While Christ was questioned inside Annas' home, Peter was being tried by Satan in the courtyard
 - This contrast between Son of man and son of man intensified the absolute need of Christ as Savior
 - Christ had confronted His flesh's fear of death and controlled it by the power of the Holy Spirit
 - Peter could not control his fleshly fear of death (Jn. 4:6-7)

Peter's Fear Was His Alone

- The Accuser (HaSatan) did not use earthly authorities to bring pressure to bear on Peter, forcing his denials
 - HaSatan used the lowest of persons, woman slave with the weakest legal voice in Jewish society
 - She simply asked Peter if he was one of Jesus' disciples
 - Peter, out of fear though he stated he would never forsake Jesus, denied Him for fear of arrest and death; like Cain he failed while Christ prevailed (Jo 10:28-29)

Darkness Growing Cold

- During this time of the year, Spring, temps can drop quickly at night (Mar-Apr)
 - Those consigned to remain outside in the courtyard gathered around a brazier of coals to enjoy its warmth
 - Peter stood with them in the darkness huddled around a few coals for warmth
 - In his weakness (sin) Peter stood with sinners, alone and fearful in the Darkness (Mt 6:41-52)

Peter Had Time to Reflect

- Peter had time to reflect on his situation as he was not questioned again at Annas' home (Lk 22:31-34; Jo 18:37-38)
 - His rash claim of dying with Christ earlier that day
 - Christ's enlightenment that Satan wanted to test Peter
 - Christ's prophecy Peter would deny Him three times
- If Peter prayed, he also could have been strengthened; yet he, like many, tried to stand in his own wisdom: fail

Three being the number of completeness
By denying Christ three times Peter was repudiating his salvation
Yet, he had no power to accept or reject salvation: It is only of God

John Moves to Christ's Trial

- This is an interrogation as the Sanhedrin is not present
 - Annas asks Christ about His teachings and disciples
 - Annas appears to be probing for hints of conspiracy against Roman and/or Jewish governance (Charges)
 - Any fermenting of dissent against Rome would also weaken his power, and income, which was tied to Roman rule through Caiaphas

*Annas appears to trying to gather incriminating evidence from Christ's words
This reveals they do not have any evidence worthy of death by Roman standards*

Christ Answers True Question

- Christ does not detail either His teachings nor the motives of those who follow Him
 - Christ states that He did nothing in secret but taught openly in the Temple (No Conspiracy of Rebellion)
 - Annas could easily ascertain Christ's teachings for himself, if he were interested in learning the truth
 - Truth and Justice not the goal of Sanhedrin's trial (Jn 4:5, Lk 42:1-9)

Christ Struck for Truthfulness

- Christ clearly answered Annas' question without giving Annas words to use against Him
 - Officer guarding Christ struck Him for insolence
 - Christ says if He had answered wrongly point to the wrong but if He answered rightly, why was He struck?
 - This first act of personal violence will not be the last, but it shows the depravity of the Jews who should have known the hour of their visitation (Lk 19:41-44)

*Sin always results in violence based on lies (Jo 8:44)
Sin strikes in secrecy until the need for secrecy no longer exists
Then, "Strike and strike hard" (Fabian Society)*

Son of Strange Light (Le 10:1-3)

- Aaron's sons, Nadab (Generous) and Abihu (He is Father) offered *strange fire* in their censors before Lord's Tabernacle; and they immediately died - Warning (Mal 2:1-9)
 - The priesthood was to teach only God's truth
 - Priesthood failed this throughout the Old Testament
- Priesthood should have seen the Lord; yet, it rejected and sought to kill Him; To snuff out the Light (Jo 1:9-11)

Immanuel (Lord with us) was one of Jesus' titles (names) (Is 7:14)
False Jews did not want God with them; they were of their father, the Devil (Jo 8:44)

Annas On Trial Before God

- Unknowingly Annas is on trial before God
 - Annas, as High Priest, should have recognized the Lord
 - However, he was of his father, the devil, promoting lies and murder; i.e., Dark light (Ma 6:22-23)
 - He is the *strange fire* before the Lord who will reject him on the day of judgment (Ma 5:21-26)

Contrasting Saved and Lost

- Peter, Annas, and later Caiaphas, all denied Jesus as the Christ; why was Peter different? (Jo 6:37-40)
 - Annas and Caiaphas will condemn Christ based on lies to kill Him showing themselves to be lost (Ma 10:32-33)
 - Peter in his flesh, like every sinner, allied himself with the World though it will not accept him (Jo 7:18-19)
 - He is saved and thus being disciplined for his sin (He 12:5-8)

Annas Makes His Decision

- Annas decides that Jesus will not incriminate Himself
 - Jesus will not provide him the ammunition to hang Him
 - But neither does He present a defense (v. 53:7-8)
 - Jesus' demands that Annas seek truth from those who heard Him teach; this invites collusion from false witnesses who *claimed* to hear His teachings

Epilogue

First phase of Christ's examination begins the violence that will escalate (Lies and Murder)

Truth is Not the Issue

- Do not be confused about trials; they are not convened to seek truth nor even justice (Ro. 1:18:25)
 - Legal system seeks to uphold its own primacy; i.e., the legal system above all else
 - Legal system sets the charge, truth is irrelevant; the defense must refute charges within the system's rules
 - Truth and justice are incidental to man's legal system

Statue of Justice is blindfolded and though it purports to express impartiality it expresses the fact that without God's Truth, rejected by man, justice is truly blinded by sin.

Guilt Forgone Conclusion

- Jesus' trial was never about truth nor justice
- Purpose of the trial was to condemn Christ, period
- Christ was not compared to the canon of Scripture
- Christ was compared against the doctrines of man
- Thus, Truth of God had already been rejected (Ro 1:18-25)

Jesus Sent to the Sanhedrin

- The entourage will now take Jesus to Caiaphas' home where the Sanhedrin is waiting to condemn Him
- While Christ will be tried inside, Peter will continue his testing outside: both will be found guilty (Jk 18:9-14)
 - Man will condemn God
 - Peter will rightly condemn himself (Repentance)

World Never Changes

- Christians seem to believe the World can be remolded to follow path of Truth and Justice
 - Evangelicalism today has become wedded to the World that has never repudiated its ways; i.e., hating Truth
 - As Lucifer perceives his time grows short, he becomes more violent in the World and toward Christians (Re 12:13-17)
 - Fiery trials come to Christians to mature us just as Peter (Mt 11:28-30, 1Pe 4:12-17)