



# JESUS IN THE HOUSE OF HIS ENEMIES

Matthew 26:57–68;  
Mark 14:53–65;  
Luke 22:54, 63–71;  
and John 18:12, 19–24

*<sup>57</sup>And those who had laid hold of Jesus led Him away to Caiaphas the high priest, where the scribes and the elders were assembled. <sup>58</sup>But Peter followed Him at a distance to the high priest's courtyard. And he went in and sat with the servants to see the end. <sup>59</sup>Now the chief priests, the elders, and all the council sought false testimony against Jesus to put Him to death, <sup>60</sup>but found none. Even though many false witnesses came forward, they found none. But at last two false witnesses came forward <sup>61</sup>and said, "This fellow said, 'I am able to destroy the temple of God and to build it in three days.'" <sup>62</sup>And the high priest arose and said to Him, "Do You answer nothing? What is it these men testify against You?" <sup>63</sup>But Jesus kept silent. And the high priest answered and said to Him, "I put You under oath by the living God: Tell us if You are the Christ, the Son of God!" <sup>64</sup>Jesus said to him, "It is as you said. Nevertheless, I say to you, hereafter you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Power, and coming on the clouds of heaven." <sup>65</sup>Then the high priest tore his clothes, saying, "He has spoken blasphemy! What further need do we have of witnesses? Look, now you have heard His blasphemy! <sup>66</sup>What do you think?" They answered and said, "He is deserving of death." <sup>67</sup>Then they spat in His face and beat Him; and others struck Him with the palms of their hands, <sup>68</sup>saying, "Prophecy to us, Christ! Who is the one who struck You?"*

—Matthew 26:57–68

*<sup>53</sup>And they led Jesus away to the high priest; and with him were assembled all the chief priests, the elders, and the scribes. <sup>54</sup>But Peter followed Him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest. And he sat with the servants and warmed himself at the*

fire.<sup>55</sup> Now the chief priests and all the council sought testimony against Jesus to put Him to death, but found none.<sup>56</sup> For many bore false witness against Him, but their testimonies did not agree.<sup>57</sup> Then some rose up and bore false witness against Him, saying,<sup>58</sup> “We heard Him say, ‘I will destroy this temple made with hands, and within three days I will build another made without hands.’”<sup>59</sup> But not even then did their testimony agree.<sup>60</sup> And the high priest stood up in the midst and asked Jesus, saying, “Do You answer nothing? What is it these men testify against You?”<sup>61</sup> But He kept silent and answered nothing. Again the high priest asked Him, saying to Him, “Are You the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?”<sup>62</sup> Jesus said, “I am. And you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Power, and coming with the clouds of heaven.”<sup>63</sup> Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, “What further need do we have of witnesses?<sup>64</sup> You have heard the blasphemy! What do you think?” And they all condemned Him to be deserving of death.<sup>65</sup> Then some began to spit on Him, and to blindfold Him, and to beat Him, and to say to Him, “Prophesy!” And the officers struck Him with the palms of their hands.

—Mark 14:53–65

<sup>54</sup>Having arrested Him, they led Him and brought Him into the high priest’s house. But Peter followed at a distance.

<sup>63</sup>Now the men who held Jesus mocked Him and beat Him.  
<sup>64</sup>And having blindfolded Him, they struck Him on the face and asked Him, saying, “Prophesy! Who is the one who struck You?”<sup>65</sup> And many other things they blasphemously spoke against Him.<sup>66</sup> As soon as it was day, the elders of the people, both chief priests and scribes, came together and led Him into their council, saying,<sup>67</sup> “If You are the Christ, tell us.” But He said to them, “If I tell you, you will by no means believe.<sup>68</sup> And if I also ask you, you will by no means answer Me or let Me go.<sup>69</sup> Hereafter the Son of Man will sit on the right hand of the power of God.”<sup>70</sup> Then they all said, “Are You then the Son of God?” So He said to them, “You rightly say that I am.”<sup>71</sup> And they said, “What further testimony do we need? For we have heard it ourselves from His own mouth.”

—Luke 22:54, 63–71

<sup>12</sup>Then the detachment of troops and the captain and the officers of the Jews arrested Jesus and bound Him.

<sup>19</sup>The high priest then asked Jesus about His disciples and His doctrine. <sup>20</sup>Jesus answered him, “I spoke openly to the world. I always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where the Jews always meet, and in secret I have said nothing. <sup>21</sup>Why do you ask Me? Ask those who have heard Me what I said to them. Indeed they know what I said.” <sup>22</sup>And when He had said these things, one of the officers who stood by struck Jesus with the palm of his hand, saying, “Do You answer the high priest like that?” <sup>23</sup>Jesus answered him, “If I have spoken evil, bear witness of the evil; but if well, why do you strike Me?” <sup>24</sup>Then Annas sent Him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.

—John 18:12, 19–24

**Read Matthew 26:57–68; Mark 14:53–65; Luke 22:54, 63–71; and John 18:12, 19–24**

It is unlikely that any of us would venture near a house where we were hated, let alone enter it, and allow the residents to brutalize, falsely accuse, and condemn us. Yet, this is exactly what Jesus did. Jesus knew what would happen in the house of His enemies, but He went anyway that the Scriptures might be fulfilled concerning the suffering and death of the Messiah (Isaiah 53). He prepared His disciples for His voluntary visitation to Annas’ and Caiaphas’ houses when He told them, *Therefore My Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again. No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This command I have received from My Father* (John 10:17–18). Jesus wanted His disciples, and all who would follow Him, to know that He was not a helpless victim of His enemies. No! Jesus was working in unison with His Father in the great plan of salvation. As the ultimate Lamb of God, He was working to take away the sin of the world. It was necessary that He, as the ultimate Lamb of God, be inspected by the high priest and found deserving of death—the task of the high priest was to inspect the sacrifice to assess its worthiness.

During His time at Annas' and Caiaphas' houses, Jesus was fulfilling all the righteous requirements of God that He might present Himself to God as the perfect sacrifice to take away our sins. *How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?* (Hebrews 9:14).

As you study Jesus' time in the house of His enemies, may the Spirit of God minister to you about the great love of Jesus, who willingly suffered so that His righteous life might pay the penalty of our sin!

**FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

The Sanhedrin consisted of Jewish noblemen and a few Pharisees who were governed by the high priest. They wielded considerable influence and power over the community. The origins of the Sanhedrin date back to Moses' choice of seventy elders in Numbers 11:16.

**FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

*Whatever ropes they used did not bind Jesus. He was bound by something else much more powerful than ropes. He was bound by love for you and for me.*

—Pastor Chuck Smith

1. After Judas' betrayal of Jesus at the garden of Gethsemane, Jesus was bound and taken to both Annas' and Caiaphas' houses to stand trial. Use the Scriptures to detail what happened to Jesus in the following houses:

a. Annas' house (John 18:12, 19–24)

b. Caiaphas' house

1) Matthew 26:59–62

2) Mark 14:55–59

3) Luke 22:63–65

2. Note and comment on the dialogue between Jesus and Caiaphas:

a. Caiaphas:

1) Matthew 26:62–63

2) Mark 14:60–61

3) Luke 22:66–67

b. Jesus:

1) Matthew 26:64

2) Mark 14:62

3) Luke 22:67–70

3. From Matthew 26:65 and Mark 14:63–64, remark on Caiaphas’:

a. Reaction

#### FOOD FOR THOUGHT

*The Sanhedrin was obligated to interview witnesses separately and then compare their testimonies to determine if they were consistent. Inconsistent testimonies were considered invalid.*<sup>39</sup>

#### FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Caiaphas was conducting a Roman-style trial. According to Jewish law, the high priest was to gather evidence against the defendant rather than directly asking the defendant self-incriminating questions. Jesus exposed Caiaphas when He pointed out that everything He said and did was a matter of public record.

#### FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Some Bible scholars say that Jesus became our high priest when Caiaphas forfeited the office (Lev. 21:10) by tearing his robes.

**FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

*I was watching in the night visions, and behold, One like the Son of Man, coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days, and they brought Him near before Him. Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him.*

*His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and His kingdom the one which shall not be destroyed.*

—Daniel 7:13–14

**FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

*In the oriental culture, in that day, as it is today, spitting in someone's face is the ultimate sign of disdain.*

—Pastor Chuck Smith

- b. Accusation
  - c. Verdict
4. Describe the treatment of Jesus after the verdict was pronounced:
    - a. Matthew 26:67
    - b. Mark 14:65
  5. Share your thoughts concerning:
    - a. Jesus' demeanor and actions in the house of His enemies
    - b. The demeanor of His accusers
  6. What is your greatest takeaway from Jesus in His enemies' houses?