

**Prayer:**

**Slide # 1**

**Theme:** *Christ the King*

**Outline:**

- Chps. 1-2 The Advent of the King. (Proving His LEGAL right to the throne by His genealogy.)
- Chp. 3 The Forerunner of the King and the King’s baptism.
- Chp. 4 The Test of the King. (Proving His MORAL right to the throne by not yielding to temptation; and exhibiting His kingdom resume.)
- Chps. 5-7 The Pronouncements of the King. (Proving His JUDICIAL right to the throne as seen in the wisdom of His kingdom teaching.)
- Chps. 8-10 The Power of the King. (Proving His PROPHETICAL right to the throne by fulfilling prophecy.)
- Chps. 11-12 The Rejection of the King.
- Chp. 13 The Parables of the King.
- Chps. 14-16 The Revelations of the King.
- Chps. 17-20 The Instructions of the King.
- Chps. 21-23 Formal Rejection of the King.
- Chps. 24-25 The Predictions of the King.
- Chps. 26-27 The Passion of the King.**
- Chp. 28 The Resurrection of the King.

The centerpiece of the history of the world is found in the death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. The whole of OT history looked forward prophetically to the cross and resurrection of Jesus. Our whole gospel is all about Christ’s death for our sins and His resurrection – all according to and in fulfillment of OT prophecy.

On this side of the cross, the whole of history looks back to the cross. The whole of the NT is about further explanation – showing how Christ has fulfilled the OT prophecies; explaining the significance of it, and showing that just as sure as He fulfilled all the first coming prophecies just as surely He will also yet fulfill all the second coming prophecies.

Right now in our study, we are in the thick of this “centerpiece” of human history – as we are in the immediate shadow of the cross.

In our study, Christ has been arrested and is now put on trial as we find in our study today. We are now in the early hours of what will be crucifixion day. As Jesus was apprehended the disciples fled just as was prophesied in Zechariah 13:7 and just as was predicted by Christ in Matthew 26:31.

This morning we pick the narrative up at Matthew 26:57...

### **Matthew 26:57–68 (NKJV)**

**57 And those who had laid hold of Jesus led Him away to Caiaphas the high priest, where the scribes and the elders were assembled.**

There are two major aspects to the trials of Christ. There was a religious aspect and a civil aspect. Actually, there were 6 trials – 3 religious and 3 civil.

### **Slide # 2**

#### ***Jesus was on trial six times***

##### ***Three Jewish Trials:***

- 1st Trial — Annas; John 18:12-14
- **2nd Trial** — Caiaphas; Luke 22:54-65
- 3rd Trial — Sanhedrin; Luke 22:66 -71

##### ***Three Gentile Trials:***

- 4th Trial — Pilate for the first time; Luke 23:1-6
- 5th Trial — Herod Antipas; Luke 23:8-12
- 6th Trial — Pilate for the second time; Luke 23:13-25

Matthew presents Christ as being brought before Caiaphas the high priest and the supreme court that was assembled with him. However, John's gospel brings out that before He was brought to Caiaphas He was first brought to Annas (Jn. 18:13-24).

Annas served as high priest from A.D. 6 to A.D. 15. His son-in-law (Caiaphas) succeeded him in the office of high priest. Caiaphas served in that role from A.D. 18-36.

Annas had been removed by Rome as Rome insisted on having the oversight of all things including who served as high priest. In his place Caiaphas as appointed by Rome now served. However, it would seem that Annas was still the major power player behind the scenes related to the position of high priest (cf. Lk. 3:2). That is why Jesus was taken there first.

Most probably both Annas and Caiaphas were Sadducees (that is theological liberals who didn't believe in the supernatural) and they controlled the temple enterprise. Trouble with Jesus at the Temple had been especially offensive to them. Twice Jesus had "cleansed" the temple during His ministry. Consequently, earlier Caiaphas had already said that Jesus had to go – He needed to be taken out for the good of the nation.

### **Slide # 3**

#### **John 11:49–50 (NKJV)**

**49** And one of them, Caiaphas, being high priest that year, said to them, "You know nothing at all,

**50** nor do you consider that it is **expedient for us that one man should die** for the people, and not that the whole nation should perish."

So, Caiaphas was the official acting high priest (according to Rome) and this is where Jesus was taken for His second trial after the initial interrogation by Annas as seen in John 18 (cf. Jn. 18:13-24).

This trial happened in the middle of the night, which according to their own rules was supposed to be illegal. But when you are in charge and you have an agenda that doesn't really care about justice everything is permissible. This is how the corrupt world operates. This was clearly a "rush to judgment" if there ever was one.

**58 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.**

Here we have a footnote that becomes important as the narrative goes along. We find in John 18 that John knew the high priest and because of this was able to get access for both himself and Peter into the courtyard. Give Peter credit in that he really was loyal to Christ (weak but loyal). At this point he followed from a distance to see what the end of this matter would be. Here he was huddled together with the high priest's servants in the courtyard of the high priest.

**59 Now the chief priests, the elders, and all the council sought false testimony against Jesus to put Him to death,**

We already saw in verse 57 that the scribes and elders were here. Now we see the chief priests and "all the council" were also there along with Caiaphas the high priest who was presiding over the trial.

When it says, “**all the council**” that is referring to the Sanhedrin which was the supreme court in Israel made up of an assortment of 71 of the key movers and shakers of the religious establishment.

Now this need not mean that every last one of the 71 were present because only 23 needed to be present for a quorum.

But note very clearly that they had an evil agenda as they “**sought false testimony against Jesus to put Him to death**”. This was anything but a fair trial. They had already determined “guilt” but they were going through the motions to try and make it look like a legitimate trial to Rome.

After all, it was this same group that had been plotting to kill Jesus as seen in 26:4. It was from this same group that the chief priests paid off Judas to secure the arrest of Jesus. These “judges” had already determined a verdict of death – now they just needed to figure out how to make a legal case that appeared to have credibility. They needed some basis to present the case to Rome which called for the death penalty. And that is what they were here trying to cobble together on the fly.

They were desperately trying to find some witnesses that could corroborate some false testimony that would stick. They were actively seeking out false witnesses to try and make it happen.

The Jews prided themselves on a legal system that was superior to all other nations in terms of fairness and justice as it was grounded in the Word of God as seen in the OT law. The essence of that jurisprudence system is laid out in Deut. 16.

#### **Slide # 4**

##### **Deuteronomy 16:18–20 (NKJV)**

**18** “You shall appoint judges and officers in all your gates, which the LORD your God gives you, according to your tribes, and they shall **judge the people with just judgment.**

**19** You shall **not pervert justice**; you shall **not show partiality, nor take a bribe,** for a bribe blinds the eyes of the wise and twists the words of the righteous.

**20** You shall **follow what is altogether just,** that you may live and inherit the land which the LORD your God is giving you.

Above all, they were to judge according to what was right and just. It was to be completely fair and impartial.

So solid was this system that much of the modern Western world has modeled its justice system on these Judeo ethics which has stood strong for hundreds of years but is now being threatened by ethical insanity on the part of corrupt judges and ungodly leaders in keeping with last day's madness.

Contrary to the ethics of Jewish law rooted in the Scriptures this was a totally unethical mock trial that was totally out to get Jesus at any cost. Note these inconsistencies involved...

- According to Jewish law, criminal cases could not be tried during the Passover season.
- According to Jewish law, only an acquittal could be issued on the day of the trial. Guilty verdicts had to wait one night to allow for feelings of mercy to rise.
- According to Jewish law, all evidence had to be guaranteed by two witnesses, who were separately examined and could not have contact with each other.
- According to Jewish law, false witness was punishable by death. Nothing was done to the **many false witnesses** in Jesus' trial.
- According to Jewish law, a trial always began by bringing forth evidence for the innocence of the accused, before the evidence of guilt was offered. This was not the practice here.

(Source: **David Guzik**)

Again, this trial was a total sham from the very beginning. Nighttime trials were illegal so they had to convene again in the early morning so as to make it "official".

### **Slide # 5**

**Luke 22:66 (NKJV)**

**66 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,

In the middle of the night, they were trying hard to find false witnesses that could agree on something that would stand as serious charges against Jesus. In the morning they "officially" ratified the charges.

**60 but found none. Even though many false witnesses came forward, they found none.**

Note the double emphasis in verse 60 on “***found none***”. They had all kinds of “***false witnesses***” but they were all very inconsistent and didn’t agree with each other which is typically the case with liars.

### **Slide # 6**

**Mark 14:56 (NKJV)**

**56 For many bore false witness against Him, but their testimonies did not agree.**

Now that is a problem – especially in a case where the death penalty is being sought. The OT was clear that in the case of a death penalty there had to be at least 2 witnesses that were in total agreement (cf. Num. 35:30; Deut. 17:6; 19:15).

### **Slide # 7**

**Deuteronomy 17:6 (NKJV)**

**6 Whoever is deserving of death shall be put to death on the testimony of two or three witnesses; he shall not be put to death on the testimony of one witness.**

Their inability to find two corroborating witnesses speaks powerfully to the life of integrity of Jesus. If you want to find “dirt” on somebody – anybody – you can find it as politics makes plain. But Jesus lived a life of perfection to the point He could say to His enemies, “***Which of you convicts Me of sin?***” (John 8:46). Who else could say this – especially in relation to one’s enemies? Could you say this? Only Jesus could say this!

### **Slide # 8**

**2 Corinthians 5:21 (NKJV)**

**21 For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.**

**Hebrews 4:15 (NKJV)**

**15 For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.**

**Slide # 9****1 Peter 2:22 (NKJV)****22 “Who committed no sin, Nor was deceit found in His mouth”;****1 John 3:5 (NKJV)****5 And you know that He was manifested to take away our sins, and in Him there is no sin.**

These Jews knew Jesus was innocent and their difficulty in finding any “false witnesses” to move their evil agenda forward proved it.

Amazingly, these religious Jews who meditated, prayed, memorized Scripture, fasted, and preached righteousness were able to block out statements in Scripture such as Proverbs 6:16-19, which emphasizes that God hates “a lying tongue,” a “heart that devises wicked plans, and “a false witness who utters lies.” – ***Ed Glasscock***

**But at last two false witnesses came forward****61 and said, “This fellow said, ‘I am able to destroy the temple of God and to build it in three days.’ ”**

Finally, they seemingly had two false witnesses come forward who seemed to have something on Jesus. Of course, they were “false witnesses” who misquoted and misapplied what Jesus actually said.

It was considered the height of sacrilege to speak against the temple in any manner. When false witnesses charged Stephen of speaking “blasphemous words” against the temple, the end result was that they stoned him as seen in Acts 6 and 7. When the enemies of Paul charged him with bringing Gentiles into the temple the whole city of Jerusalem went crazy and they tried to kill him as seen in Acts 21.

**Slide # 10****John 2:18–21 (NKJV)****18 So the Jews answered and said to Him, “What sign do You show to us, since You do these things?”****19 Jesus answered and said to them, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.”****20 Then the Jews said, “It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will You raise it up in three days?”****21 But He was speaking of the temple of His body.**

Note Jesus did NOT say He would destroy the temple, but speaking to the Jews He told them that if THEY destroyed the temple He would raise it up in three days. Furthermore, He was not talking about the Jewish temple, but rather about the temple of His body.

At this point, Jesus did not even bother to try and clarify what He was saying because in truth this crowd wasn't even listening to truth at all. In truth, they were about to destroy the temple of His body and then the greatest sign of all would be demonstrated in Christ raising himself up from the dead on the third day.

But even these two did not totally agree in what they were saying...

### **Slide # 11**

#### **Mark 14:57–59 (NKJV)**

**57** Then some rose up and bore false witness against Him, saying,

**58** “We heard Him say, ‘I will destroy this temple made with hands, and within three days I will build another made without hands.’ ”

**59** **But not even then did their testimony agree.**

**62** And the high priest arose and said to Him, “Do You answer nothing? What is it these men testify against You?”

**63** But Jesus kept silent.

The high priest at this point tried to bully Jesus into incriminating Himself but He remained silent and this frustrated the high priest.

Jesus *could* have mounted a magnificent defense here, calling forth all the various witnesses to His deity, power and character. The people He taught, the people He healed, the dead risen, the blind who see, even the demons themselves testified to His deity.

**-David Guzik**

Jesus could easily have refuted the false charges clearly explaining what He meant back 3 years earlier as seen in John 2 but He chose to remain silent and not defend Himself in what is called “a dignified silence”.

This was the silence of dignity, the silence of innocence, the silence of integrity, the silence of trust in His heavenly Father, the trust that God's plan was being fulfilled, it was the silence of fulfilled prophecy.

**Slide # 12****Isaiah 53:7 (NKJV)**

7 He was oppressed and He was afflicted, **Yet He opened not His mouth**; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, And as a sheep before its shearers is **silent, So He opened not His mouth**.

**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!”**

The high priest at this point sought to force Christ into speaking – with the goal of having Him incriminate Himself. This seemed to be a very clever ploy. Caiaphas knew full well that Jesus had claimed to be the Son of God as seen in John 10:30-33. And he knew full well the Law of Moses demanded that if someone was put under oath they had to answer.

**Slide # 13****Leviticus 5:1 (HCSB)**

1 “When someone sins in any of these ways: If he has seen, heard, or known about something he has witnessed, and did **not respond to a public call to testify**, he is responsible for his sin.

Beyond this, the high priest seemingly sought to be clever in two ways. If Jesus testified to being **the Christ** He would be in trouble with Rome that considered any other claim to be king as a threat to Caesar and worthy of death. If He claimed to be the **Son of God** that would be considered blasphemy by the Jews and worthy of death. So either way an admission to either being the Christ or the Son of God would evoke a charge that called for the death penalty.

So, one claim would result in the capital crime of “traitor” to Rome and the other claim would result in the capital crime of “blasphemy”. I have a feeling the high priest had been working on this “gotcha question” for a while.

Give the high priest credit – this was the all-important issue. In Matthew 16 Jesus asked the disciples whom people thought He was and they said “one of the prophets”, but Peter said, “***You are the Christ, the Son of the living God***” and Jesus then said He would build His Church on this “Rock Truth” (cf. Mt. 16:13-18). John said he wrote the entire gospel of John so that we might believe that “***Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.***” (John 20:31).

So this question about Jesus being the Christ, the Son of God, really is the ULTIMATE ISSUE! And Jesus seized the moment in front of all these religious “BIG SHOTS” to BOLDY once and for all seal His testimony with absolute clarity.

**64 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.”**

Jesus in effect said to him, “**You got it!**” More literally in the affirmative, He said, “**You have said it**”. The gospel of Mark says it even more clearly with Jesus’ response being “**I am**”.

### **Slide # 14**

**Mark 14:62 (NKJV)**

**62 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.”

And then to drive the point home with absolute dogmatism Jesus said, “**Nevertheless, I say to you, hereafter you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Power, coming on the clouds of heaven.**”

If there was ever any doubt about Jesus’ claim to be the Christ this ended all doubt with emphatic certainty. Jesus pointed to the hereafter.

“**Son of Man**” is a clear Messianic designation tied back to Daniel 7:13-14 which Jesus here in essence quoted and applied to Himself. Every educated Jew knew this was a KEY Messianic text.

### **Slide # 15**

**Daniel 7:13–14 (NKJV)**

**13** “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.

**14** 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.

Jesus in saying, “**you will see**” was in effect saying, “*You haven’t seen the last of me and when you see Me in the hereafter You will see Me in the position of POWER and GLORY!*”

The roles will then be reversed. Jesus will then be JUDGE with everyone in submission to Him and those who were now sitting in judgment of Him will be in BIG TROUBLE!

### **Slide # 16**

#### **Deuteronomy 7:10 (NKJV)**

**10** and He repays those who hate Him to their face, to destroy them. He will not be slack with him who hates Him; He will repay him to his face.

This warning from Christ is similar to when Jesus in a last word of gracious warning said to Judas, “**Friend, why have you come**” (Mt. 26:50). Now in a final warning to these religious leaders who were in the position of being His “judges” He gives this final warning regarding the hereafter.

Jesus added this one word of warning. He warned them that though they sat in judgment of Him now, He would one day sit in judgment of them – and with a far more binding judgment. – **David Guzik**

In essence, He was saying, “I am the Son of God, as you have said. My glory is presently veiled in a human body; I appear to be just another man. You see Me in the days of My humiliation. But the day is coming when you will see Me as the glorified One, equal in all respects with God, sitting at His right hand and coming on the clouds of heaven.” – **William MacDonald**

In addition to this, in saying He would be seated at the right hand of Power Jesus was clearly saying He would be on the right hand of God which is the position of the Messiah as prophesied in the KEY Messianic Psalm of Psalm 110.

### **Slide # 17**

#### **Psalm 110:1 (NKJV)**

**1** The LORD said to my Lord, “Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool.”

These were two of the most famous and prominent Messianic texts in the OT and for Jesus to apply them to Himself along with affirming that He is the Son of God made it very clear that He was claiming to be the divine/human Messiah prophesied in the OT Scriptures.

Earlier in Jesus' ministry, the Jews had clearly gotten the point that Jesus in claiming to be the Son of God was making Himself equal with God the Father.

### **Slide # 18**

#### **John 5:18 (NKJV)**

**18** Therefore the Jews sought all the more to kill Him, because He not only broke the Sabbath, but also **said that God was His Father, making Himself equal with God.**

Later on this very day, the Jews would tell Pilate that the reason they had for seeking His death was because of Jesus' claim to be the Son of God.

### **Slide # 19**

#### **John 19:7 (NKJV)**

**7** The Jews answered him, "We have a law, and according to our law He ought to die, **because He made Himself the Son of God.**"

The response of the high priest serves to show that he clearly understood that Jesus was claiming to be God because he emphatically says this is blasphemy in the strongest of terms.

Caiaphas did not see the deity of Christ then, but he will see it in a coming day. ... Caiaphas had a foretaste of things to come when a few days later the terrified guard came rushing in from the open tomb with the tidings of a resurrection. The high priest had a further foretaste when along with his guilty colleagues he was confronted by a group of apostles. They were filling Jerusalem with the tidings of a risen Christ and resolutely resisted all attempts to bully and beat them into silence. "You'll see", said Jesus...– ***John Phillips***

And indeed they will! We all have a date with destiny in which all will see Jesus in all His resurrection glory as the One Who will have absolute eternal kingdom dominion over all. What a day that will be!

**65 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!**

The high priest clearly grasped the gravity of what Christ was saying. The only problem was he didn't believe it. When faced with the claims of Christ one has a choice. Is the person going to accept it or are they going to reject it? Clearly, the high priest totally rejected Christ's claim to be the divine/human Messiah and therefore called it BLASPHEMY!

The high priest's reaction proves that he understood Jesus was claiming equality with God (see John 5:18). – **William MacDonald**

When Jesus claimed to be the eternal “I AM” in John 8 it evoked a similar response in that the Jews took up stones to stone Him because they considered it to be blasphemy (John 8:58-59).

The tearing of the clothes signified horror, indignation, grief, outrage, or some combination of these (cf. 2 Kg. 18:37; Jud. 14:19). This act itself was unlawful for the high priest to do if indeed he was wearing his priestly vestments (cf. Lev. 10:6).

### **Slide # 20**

#### **Leviticus 21:10 (NKJV)**

**10** 'He who is the high priest among his brethren, on whose head the anointing oil was poured and who is consecrated to wear the garments, shall not uncover his head **nor tear his clothes;**

The penalty for blasphemy was considered a capital offense to be punished by death.

### **Slide # 21**

#### **Leviticus 24:16 (NKJV)**

**16** And **whoever blasphemes the name of the LORD shall surely be put to death.** All the congregation shall certainly stone him, the stranger as well as him who is born in the land. **When he blasphemes the name of the LORD, he shall be put to death.**

To claim to be equal with God would be the height of blasphemy (irreverent speech) except in the case of Jesus it happened to be true. He truly is the eternal I AM – He truly is the Son of God. And this is what they missed.

Veiled in humble humanity they could not see the truth of Who He was as God!

**66 What do you think?” They answered and said, “He is deserving of death.”**

In saying, “**What do you think?**” the high priest was calling for a verdict – a verdict of guilt for blasphemy which called for the death penalty.

And the quorum of the Sanhedrin in consensus (or at least with a strong majority) answered, “**He is deserving of death**”. Thus, they were in agreement that He should die.

No one defended Jesus. No one brought up that His claims were backed up with Scripture as seen in fulfillment of the prophetic Scriptures. No one pointed out His Messianic kingdom miracles or that He uniquely did what no one else had ever done – all in perfect accord with Scripture (cf. Isa. 53:8). This is what they missed. They claimed to be experts in the Scriptures – but missed the plain truth of it.

### **Slide # 22**

**John 5:46–47 (NKJV)**

**46** For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me; for he wrote about Me.

**47** But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe My words?”

**67 Then they spat in His face and beat Him; and others struck Him with the palms of their hands,  
68 saying, “Prophecy to us, Christ! Who is the one who struck You?”**

To the Jews the supreme insult was to spit in someone’s face (cf. Num. 12:14; Deut. 25:9). This too was the fulfillment of prophecy written 700 years before by Isaiah.

### **Slide # 23**

**Isaiah 50:6 (NKJV)**

**6** I gave My back to those who struck Me, And My cheeks to those who plucked out the beard; I did not hide My face from shame and spitting.

Charles Spurgeon suggested some ways that men still in effect spit in the face of Jesus today (cf. Heb. 10:29).

- Men spit in His face by denying His deity.
- Men spit in His face by rejecting His gospel.
- Men spit in His face by preferring their own righteousness.
- Men spit in His face by turning away from Jesus.

Contrary to all Jewish and Roman law, they took it on themselves to begin to punish the accused. – ***The Bible Knowledge Commentary***

And all without even a legal trial at this point. This whole thing was a total sham – a total mockery of true justice! This was done by the “dignified” Supreme Court in Israel! They simply HATED Jesus and wanted to do away with Him – no matter what. Hatred expresses depravity like no other!

In Acts 5:30 after the resurrection Peter and the apostles flat out told the high priest and the Sanhedrin that God raised up “***Jesus whom you murdered***”. That was blunt – blunt undeniable truth!

The hatred being expressed by this treatment was senseless if one was truly looking for justice. This was revenge for the times He had outwitted them in public and called them hypocrites, snakes, and whited sepulchers. – ***Ed Glasscock***

Both Mark 14:65 and Luke 22:64 say they blindfolded Him and then struck Him saying, “***Prophecy to us, Christ! Who is the one who struck You?***”

Surely if He was truly the Messiah He would know WHO it was that hit Him – so they thought and said in mockery. After all according to Isaiah 11:3 said the Messiah “***shall not judge by the sight of His eyes***”.

Little did they realize He knew full well, and that all this was being allowed to happen in perfect fulfillment of the prophetic Scriptures. Little did they realize that His enduring of these indignities in fact PROVED that He was YHWH’s Servant as seen in the “Servant Songs” of Isaiah 50 and 53 (cf. Isa. 50:4-11; 52:13 - 53:12).

Someone has said as one reads this, one wonders if the greatest miracle of all is not the patient suffering of this abuse by the spotless One Who truly had no sin. God’s grace is truly amazing. His patience with sinners is truly amazing. His mercy is truly amazing.

How often we hear Christians say, “*How long can God put up with what is going on in the world?*” We hear things like, “*If God doesn’t soon judge America He is going to have to apologize to Sodom and Gomorrah.*” Certainly, judgment day is coming as the Bible says, but in the meantime, 2 Peter 3:9 indicates that God is patient still waiting for more to come to repentance.

I don’t agree with Martin Luther’s baptismal regeneration but he is quotable. He once said...

If I were as our Lord God and had committed the government to my son as He to His Son and these vile people were as disobedient as they now be I would knock the world in pieces. – **Martin Luther** (commenting on Ps. 2).

From a human perspective, I get that. God is so much more gracious than we can even begin to imagine and we need look no further than ourselves.

The Supreme Court in Israel led by the high priest put the depravity of man on full display and Jesus the Son of God put God on display.

The events that culminated at Calvary show how far man will go in expressing his hatred for God and how far God will go in expressing His love for man. – **John Phillips**

What a beautiful person is the person of the Lord Jesus Christ. He is our perfect example. Have you ever been abused? Have you ever been falsely accused and slandered? Jesus knows all about it! As our High Priest He can sympathize with whatever we are going through (Heb. 4:15).

Just remember the very name “Devil” means “Slanderer” (cf. 1 Pet. 4:12-14; 5:8-9). He never fights fair. But also remember God will have the last word. There is a place for “imprecatory praying” so long as we do so with the right spirit and do not seek to “avenge not ourselves” but rather give it over to God because vengeance belongs to Him.

This is the great example of Christ – He gave it over to the Father.

### **Slide # 24**

**1 Peter 2:23–24 (NKJV)**

**23** who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but **committed Himself to Him who judges righteously;**

**24** who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness—by whose stripes you were healed.

The inhumane treatment experienced by Christ was foreseen, foretold and allowed by God for the larger purpose of providing salvation for God-haters if they will but repent and put their faith in Him as Lord and Savior!

Every person faced with the truth of Christ faces a choice. Will they accept Him on His terms or will they reject Him?

Every person who rejects Christ in effect spits in His face and is guilty of blasphemy against God Who sent His only begotten Son to be the Savior of all who will believe on Him.

The irony of ironies is that all who misjudge Jesus will ultimately be judged by Him. Those who spit in His face will one day see Him in all His glory on the right hand of all power. What then? People continually misjudge Jesus but He NEVER misjudges them!

What is your “judgment call” on Jesus?

What will Christ’s judgment call be on you? It all depends on what you do with Him in the here and now!

**1 John 5:12 (NKJV)**

**12** He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.

**John 3:18 (NKJV)**

**18** “He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved! (Acts 16:31)