

JESUS ON TRIAL

Dear Prayer Partners,

This **Sunday (12/01)** we turn our attention to **Luke 23:1-25**.

Jesus had been arrested, in the middle of the night, at the Garden of Gethsemane. All of His disciples fled, except for Peter who followed at a distance.

He was taken to Ananas' house first. Ananas had been one of Israel's most powerful High Priests. His rule had come to an abrupt end due to Rome's hatred of him. His son in law Caiaphas was then made High Priest in his place.

Even though Ananas was no longer High Priest that didn't mean he wasn't powerful. That is why Jesus was brought to his house first. And, after intensive questioning Jesus was then sent to His second trial before Caiaphas.

It was in the presence of Caiaphas that, *"The men who held Jesus mocked Him and beat Him. And having blindfolded Him, they struck Him on the face and asked Him, saying, Prophecy! Who is the one who struck You? And many other things they blasphemously spoke against Him"* (Luke 22:63–65).

After that Jesus was sent to His third trial before the entire Sanhedrin. As Jesus stood before them bloodied and beaten, they assailed Him with verbal insults, screaming that He was blaspheming by claiming to be the *"Son of God"*.

It was then their decision was made. The evidence was irrefutable. Jesus had to die. Their power was under assault. And, to make matters worse, the multitudes were turning to Jesus. If something wasn't done immediately that they would lose everything.

The right of Capital punishment had been taken from them, so they immediately led Jesus to stand trial before the Romans.

Jesus would now stand three more trials. It was there He would encounter Pilate, Herod, Barabbas and finally the unruly mob. This was the same mob who had days earlier welcomed Jesus into Jerusalem by singing, “*Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest*” (Luke 19:38)!

As you read this dramatic scene of injustice, the question is why? Why would God the Father allow His Son to be treated so viciously? And, why would Jesus, who had the authority to call down a legion of angels, stand silent as He was being assaulted?

The answer is simple. Jesus is love. Because He is love that meant He had come to save not destroy His enemies. And, the only way for that to happen meant He had to give His life. One selfless act of sacrifice that would provide salvation for all people (good, bad, religious, irreligious, famous and infamous).

The Apostle John, writing many years later said, “*In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins*” (1 John 4:9–10).

Please invite as many as you can (Sunday, 10:00 am). **Time is short. Jesus is coming** and the **harvest is plentiful**.

Hope to see you,

BE BLESSED,
Pastor