

# *Jesus on Trial*

Gospel of Mark Series – Part 45

Scripture text – Mark 14:53-65

## Introduction

- There's a new phenomenon in American culture known as \_\_\_\_\_. It has to do with becoming aware of & deeply concerned about \_\_\_\_\_.
- Our Scripture today is an example of grave injustices perpetrated against \_\_\_\_\_.
- For all sufferers of injustice, it is comforting to know that God himself, in the person of his Son, felt the \_\_\_\_\_ of injustice.

## Background Information

- The Sanhedrin was comprised of \_\_\_\_\_ members, plus the high priest. This group wielded enormous religious and \_\_\_\_\_ authority. This was truly a gathering of the powerful.
- However, since 63 BC (it's now 33 AD), the Sanhedrin was answerable to the Roman \_\_\_\_\_.
- The sole purpose of this meeting was to figure out how to get \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus without sparking civil unrest. As long as the Sanhedrin kept things \_\_\_\_\_, they were given wide latitude to run things.
- The Sanhedrin knew they couldn't just kill Jesus and \_\_\_\_\_ his body somewhere. Doing so would make Jesus a \_\_\_\_\_. No, they needed to humiliate him, and then get rid of him, with at least the \_\_\_\_\_ of legality.

## The Trial that Wasn't

- It's easy to see the multiple \_\_\_\_\_ of this proceeding.
- This was a delicate matter for the high priest:
  1. He needed the agreement & support of the \_\_\_\_\_ Sanhedrin. To accomplish this, they needed to find a compelling reason under \_\_\_\_\_ law to have Jesus killed.
  2. Then, they needed to figure out a compelling reason under \_\_\_\_\_ law for the execution to be carried out.

- For 3 years, Jesus had carefully avoided calling himself the \_\_\_\_\_. In addition, only \_\_\_\_\_ had referred to him as the “Son of God.”
- Now, for the 1<sup>st</sup> time, Jesus publicly acknowledges who he is.
- By combining 2 Old Testament passages, Jesus claimed to be \_\_\_\_\_ than the Messiah. He wasn’t just claiming to be *sent* by God, he was claiming to \_\_\_\_\_ God.
- The Sanhedrin now had what they needed to seek his death.

### A Tentative Application

- In the event Christians in America begin to be treated unjustly (on account of our faith), we need to carefully consider our \_\_\_\_\_.
- The “American way” is to assert our rights and to \_\_\_\_\_. This may not be \_\_\_\_\_ way. A wise local church will decide this together, even if only one member is affected.
- As Christians, we care more about God’s \_\_\_\_\_ than we do our \_\_\_\_\_.

### A Closing Reminder

- THIS PASSAGE MUST NOT BE USED TO JUSTIFY \_\_\_\_\_!
- All humankind is \_\_\_\_\_.