

**Message #95****Matthew 26:57-75**

The trial that Jesus had before Caiaphas was actually His second trial. First, He was taken to a trial before Annas, Caiaphas' father-in-law (John 18:12-14, 19-23). It was Annas who first questioned Christ about His disciples and teaching (John 18:12), and it was Annas who sent Him bound to Caiaphas, the high priest (John 18:24). Caiaphas was the high priest who really wanted Jesus Christ dead (John 18:14).

**THE KING OF KINGS DEMONSTRATED HE WAS THE KING OF KINGS AT HIS TRIAL BEFORE CAIAPHAS, WHICH WAS DESIGNED TO TRY AND PROVE THAT JESUS WAS GUILTY OF SOMETHING SO THAT HE COULD BE PUT TO DEATH.**

When one completes studying this passage, one must conclude this was Israel's Messiah. This was Israel's King.

**FACT #1** – Jesus was led before the most powerful Jewish religious leaders alive. **26:57**

In the religious world of Israel, this was the most powerful group that could be assembled.

**FACT #2** – Peter followed Jesus at some distance into the courtyard of the high priest. **26:58**

Now keep in mind that Peter first fled from Jesus (26:56). But at some point in his flight, he changed his mind and turned around.

**FACT #3** – The religious leaders tried to gain false testimony against Jesus but could not find any. **26:59-60a**

Initially, no one could lay any charge against Christ, not even false trumped up charges.

**FACT #4** – Two witnesses came forward who twist facts about what Jesus said. **26:60b-61**

(Point #1) - Jesus' statement was about three years prior to this trial (John 2:19).

(Point #2) - Jesus did not say He was able to destroy the temple (John 2:19). What Jesus did say is if they destroyed the temple, He could rebuild it in three days.

**FACT #5** – The high priest tries to get Jesus to respond to false accusations. **26:62**

**FACT #6** – Jesus refuses to answer the false charges. **26:63a**

**FACT #7** – The high priest specifically asks Christ if He is the Messiah, the Son of God. **26:63b**

These leaders knew this all along—they had a true sense that this was who He was.

**FACT #8** – Jesus answers the high priest and proves who He is. **26:64**

Jesus directly and literally responded by saying, “You said.” This is how the Greek reads. In other words, “You are the one who has just said the truth.” But then Jesus quotes two powerful Messianic O.T. passages—Psalm 110:1 & Daniel 7:13. These are two unmistakable references to the Messiah and the kingdom. Jesus applied both of these passages to Himself, which basically says I am the Messiah who will be seated at the right hand of God the Father and I am the one who will come from heaven and be given glory, kingdom and honor and all will serve Me (Dan. 7:14).

**FACT #9** – The high priest responds to Christ’s statement. **26:65-66a**

The high priest knew exactly who Jesus was claiming to be. This was a statement of deity. The high priest immediately tore his clothes, something which He was forbidden to do by O.T. Law (Lev. 21:10). Then he declared Jesus as blasphemous. Stanley Toussaint said that in this one context, there are four main proofs of who Jesus Christ was (p. 307):

- 1) None of the religious leaders could find fault in Jesus even when they had false witnesses;
- 2) Jesus’ composure and silence in this situation is divine;
- 3) Jesus says He is the Son of God, which was confirmed by the high priest’s statement;
- 4) Jesus says in the future He will come from the clouds to reign.

**FACT #10** – The other religious leaders respond to Jesus. **26:66b-68**

The religious leaders started saying He deserves to die, then they spit in His face, beat Him with their fists and slapped Him and asked Him to prophesy and tell them who hit Him.

**FACT #11** – Peter denies the Lord. **26:69-75**

The terrible things happening to Jesus are intensified when one of his loyal disciples curses Him and denies Him. Peter is emotionally exhausted, he is physically tired, and he is cold and afraid.

**(Stage #1)** - Peter denied he knew the Lord while sitting outside in the courtyard. **26:69-70**

This first denial occurred when a servant girl recognized him and said in front of others that he had been with Him.

**(Stage #2)** - Peter denied he knew the Lord with an oath while standing by a fire at the gate. **26:71-72; John 18:18, 25**

The second denial occurred when another girl recognized Peter at the gate of the courtyard.

**(Stage #3)** - Peter denied he knew the Lord in the court just before the rooster crowed. **26:73-74**

The third denial occurred when a number of people recognized Peter.

As soon as Peter heard the rooster crow, he remembered the words of the Lord and he went out and wept bitterly. Peter had a heart that loved the Lord and he had promised he would never forsake the Lord. But he had failed the Lord. Peter’s tears were tears of true repentance.