

Jesus before three Jewish Judges in His trial:

**I. JESUS BEFORE ANNAS**  
**John 18:12-14, 19-24**

Putting yourself in the scene

3 main characters: Annas – his official – Jesus

I. Annas sees Jesus as an intrusion

- A. To his corrupt power
- B. To his ill-gotten wealth

He must get rid of Jesus, so he asks about His

a) disciples & b) doctrine implying that He is building a seditious cult

II. Jesus' simple response

- A. Not defensive
- B. Points out the obvious truth, whatever the consequences

(Note contrast: surrounded by Peter's **denial** of truth inconvenient to his well being)

III. The official sees Jesus as an embarrassment

Jesus has made them look foolish. Truth does that to liars

So he strikes Jesus --in frustration and anger

--to intimidate Him

IV. Jesus' simple response

- A. He does not "lose it"
- B. He asks a gentle probing question: why?

So what

1. Today's angry attacks on Jesus:

Christianity is a self-deluded hoax

Generally do *not* attack Jesus

2. How should we respond:

- a) Not defensive – He's a pattern to follow in conflict
- b) Simply lay out historical facts and truth
- c) Ask probing questions addressed to the heart

3. What is your position on Jesus??

- a) Is He inconvenient to your lifestyle?
- b) Is He a frustration in the things He brings to you?
- c) Do you recognize your need of Him to:
  - forgive your sins
  - change your heart so you follow Him eagerly