

**MATTHEW:  
THE GOSPEL  
OF THE KINGDOM**

## The Christ Condemned

Matthew 26:57-68

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### Introduction:

- Context - Passion week
- Drinking the cup of God's wrath on our behalf

We read, in these verses, how our Lord Jesus Christ was brought before Caiaphas the high priest, and solemnly pronounced guilty. It was fitting that it should be so.

The great day of atonement was come: the wondrous type of the scape-goat was about to be completely fulfilled. It was only suitable that the Jewish high priest should do his part, and declare sin to be upon the head of the victim, before He was led forth to be crucified.

May we ponder these things and understand them. There was a deep meaning in every step of our Lord's passion.

~ Ryle

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### The Kangaroo Court - v.57

Then those who had seized Jesus led him to *Caiaphas* the high priest, where the scribes and the elders had *gathered*.

#### According to Jewish Law

- No trial for life was allowed during the night
- No capital punishment cases allowed on the eve of major festival
- Sentencing and pronouncement not allowed until the day after conviction in cases of capital punishment
- No executions during a feast
- Except in cases of threat to the people

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**The Curious Disciple - v.58**

And *Peter* was following him at a distance,  
as far as the *courtyard* of the high priest,  
and going inside he sat with the guards  
*to see the end.*

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**The False Witnesses - v.59-60**

Now the chief priests and the whole council  
were *seeking false testimony* against Jesus  
*that* they might put him to death,  
but they found *none*,  
though *many* false witnesses came forward.

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**The False Witnesses - v.60b-61**

*At last* two came forward and said,  
“This man said,  
I am able  
to destroy the temple of God,  
and to rebuild it in three days.” (cf. Jn2:19ff)

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**The High Priest's Question and Command - v.62-63**

And the high priest stood up and said,  
 "Have you *no answer* to make?  
 What is it that these men testify against you?"  
 But Jesus remained *silent*.  
 And the high priest said to him,  
 "I *adjure you* by the living God,  
 tell us if you are the *Christ*, the *Son of God*."

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**Jesus' Answer - v.64**

Jesus said to him,  
 "*You have said so*."

**But** I tell you,  
 from *now on* you will see  
 the *Son of Man*  
*seated at the right hand of Power*  
 and *coming on the clouds of heaven*."

Yet it is, paradoxically, in  
 this setting of the apparent  
 helplessness and defeat of  
 Jesus that we reach the  
 climactic statement of who  
 he is. ~ France

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**The High Priests' Declaration - v.65-66**

Then the high priest *tore his robes* and said,  
 "He has uttered *blasphemy*.  
 What further witnesses do we need?  
 You have now heard *his* blasphemy.  
 What is your *judgment*?"  
 They answered, "*He deserves death*."

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**Jesus' Mistreatment - v.67-68**

Then they *spit* in his face and *struck* him.  
And some *slapped* him, saying,  
"Prophesy to us, *you Christ!*  
Who is it that struck you?"

"...the spitting on him refutes the claim that he has authority, the blows show that he has no power, and the failure to prophesy as to who hit him is for them clear proof that he has no gift of prophecy about what will happen in the future." ~Morris

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**Applications**

- The self-giving and self-denying character of the Lord Jesus Christ.
- The sympathetic experience of Jesus for us.
- The present and future glory of Jesus Christ.
- The self-deceptive and self-justifying influence of sin.
- The ability to by-pass what we know to be right to accomplish what we intend.
- Jesus' unjust condemnation...the Gospel.
- The future settling of all injustice.

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