

Introduction

1. If you have ever been in court, you know the object of most litigants is to win.
 - a. You get best lawyer; gather confirming evidence; bring favorable witnesses.
 - b. When over, not everyone believes that justice was necessarily served.
 - c. 11yrs ago, waiting park at White Sox game; man walked by wearing OJ Simson jersey.
 - i. Thot, *Wow, do we live in different worlds!* Wouldn't be caught dead in OJ jersey.
 - ii. Pardon the pun. My view is high-powered lawyers & biased jury, let O.J. walk.
2. Of all trials, one had very different strategy. Jesus' trial. Most = innocent (Pilate, Judas).
 - a. In fact, since Sanhedrin (Jewish high court) couldn't pin down, Jesus could've walked.
 - b. So you know what Jesus did? Gave them the charges they were looking for. Why?
 - c. Jesus' strategy was to lose, not win. Rather than defend, Jesus blew case on purpose.
 - d. Why? Jesus had different purpose than most defendants being tried. Show purpose:
3. Jesus affirmed His identity at His trial as God & Messiah by fulfilling the roles assigned to Him in Old Testament prophecy. (Show Title/Text)¹

I. **The Silent Lamb, vv. 53-61a (Prophecy = Isaiah 53:7)**

A. **Illegal Trial** (Show The False Witnesses by Tissot)²

1. V. 53 = Sanhedrin (71 members under headship of High Priest).
 - a. Preliminary hearing before Annas, arraignment before Caiaphas, verdict after dawn.
 - b. 2 things are striking. Total injustice of the trial; total silence of Jesus.
2. **5 Illegalities:** Lawyers have studied & said *travesty of justice, mockery of legality*.³
 - a. From Jewish *Mishnah*, know Sanhedrin broke all own laws.⁴ (Show Illegal)⁵
 - (i) Illegal Place: Official meeting place = hall of stones, Temple, not private homes.
 - (ii) Illegal Time: Not tried at night or during feast. Jesus at night during Passover.
 - (iii) Illegal Proceedings: Presumed innocent, defense called 1st, Judge not prosecutor.⁶
 - (iv) Illegal Witnesses: Law = 2 witnesses must agree; False wits dismissed/disciplined.⁷
 - (a) Some brought up Jesus prediction of resurrection, vv.57-59. Death penalty.
 - (b) Even then their testimonies conflicted.
 - (v) Illegal Verdict: If death, must wait 1 day & reconsider mercy. Rush to judgment.
 - b. Reminds me of *To Kill a Mockingbird*. Tom Robinson = black; Jesus = truth.
 - c. Same sinking feeling should have here. We feel outraged. Jesus was not
3. Response of Jesus was total silence. When chance to speak He said nothing.
 - a. High Priest in frustration took up the prosecution, v. 60.
 - b. *But Jesus remained silent and made no answer*, v. 61. Why?

¹ <http://spreadjesus.org/HW13/Jesus-before-the-Sanhedrin-spreadjesus.org.jpg>. Accessed 12/7/17.

² http://truthbook.com/images/site_images/James_Tissot_The_False_Witnesses_Before_Caiaphas_525.jpg. 12/6/17

³ Jerry Vines (1990). *Exploring the Gospels: Mark*. Neptune, NJ: Loizeaux Brothers, Inc., p. 280.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ <https://www.slideshare.net/schumacr/the-third-day-the-trials-of-jesus-part-1> Slide 23. Accessed 12/8/17.

⁶ Brown, R. E., Fitzmyer, J. A., & Murphy, R. E. (1996). *The Jerome Biblical commentary*. Vol. 2, p. 56. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice-Hall.

⁷ Keener, C. S. (1993). *The IVP Bible background commentary: New Testament*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

- i. Surface answer = Jesus winning w/o word.⁸ Enemies self-destructing, out of way!
- ii. Deeper answer = Jesus fulfilling prophecy. ([Show Isaiah 53:7](#))⁹

B. **Jesus Knew God's Plan** (knew time had come to lay down His life. Quote John 10:18.)

II. The Supreme King, vv. 53-61a (Prophecy = Dan. 7:13; Psa. 110:1)

A. High Priest's 2nd Question

1. Caiaphas fit be tied. Jesus right where he wants, no evidence. Took matters into hands.
 - a. Actions illegal: takes up prosecution, asks leading question get Jesus convict self.¹⁰
 - b. Details of question: *the Blessed* = title for God.¹¹ *Christ, Son of* = titles of Messiah.
2. Jesus did not have to answer. Jewish law protected accused from self-incrimination.
3. Jesus' next word determines whether lives/dies. If not answer, He could go free.

B. Jesus' Answer

1. *I am* = double meaning. To us = deity.¹² To Caiaphas = Messiah. 1st time Mk's gospel.¹³
2. Imagine how mouths must've dropped open. He said it. Exact thing.
3. Before could react, Jesus gave 'em more than wanted hear. [Show Psa 110:1](#);¹⁴ [Dan. 7:13](#)¹⁵
 - a. Judgement scenes. King & war chariots would kick up clouds of dust as came.
 - b. Jesus saying, *You're judging me, but someday I will judge you.*
4. Jesus looking beyond cross to ascension, enthronement, 2nd coming.
5. This is Hebrews 12:2 in nutshell. Jesus could accept injustice because of what knew.
 - a. There are injustices in life. Life is unfair to God's people. Many of us experienced.
 - b. **Focus on Family**: *Teach your kids life not always fair.* Think is, bitterly disillusioned.
 - c. **Are to work for justice for others & seek justice when can for ourselves.**
6. But what do we do when God wills injustice happens to us? He did for Jesus. Unjust.
 - a. God willed this injustice to happen to Him. What did Jesus do? [Show 1Pet. 2:23](#):
 - b. *Our chief role model is the Lord. He suffered. His reasoning was that His Father...*
 - c. *...would judge matters in due time. He was obedient.*¹⁶ We follow same path.

III. The Suffering Servant, vv. 61b-65 (Prophecy = Isaiah 50:6)

A. High Priest's Response & Others ([Show Mocking of Christ by Anonymous](#))¹⁷

1. *Tore his cloths* = an outward sign of grief and outrage.
2. **Blasphemy**: Only God could announce/enthroned Messiah, Psalm 2.
 - a. So Jesus was claiming God's prerogatives, making Himself equal to God.

⁸ Hughes, R. K. (1989). *Mark: Jesus, servant and savior*. Vol. 2, p. 181. Westchester, IL: Crossway Books.

⁹ http://images.slideplayer.com/11/3077134/slides/slide_2.jpg. Accessed 12/8/17.

¹⁰ Barclay, W. (Ed.). (1976). *The Gospel of Mark*. Philadelphia, PA: The Westminster John Knox Press, p. 350.

¹¹ Strong, J. (1995). *Enhanced Strong's Lexicon*. Woodside Bible Fellowship. #2128

¹² *Jesus is Jehovah to me; He's Lord & He's King of King. He's more than a man, He's the great I Am; Jesus is Jehovah to me.* <http://www.danielamos.com/da/danielamos/jesusisjehovahtome.html>. Accessed 12/9/17.

¹³ Grassmick, J. D. (1985). Mark. In J. F. Walvoord & R. B. Zuck (Eds.), *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures*. Vol. 2, p. 183. Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

¹⁴ <https://www.pinterest.fr/explore/psalm-110/>. Accessed 12/9/17.

¹⁵ http://images.slideplayer.com/15/4719124/slides/slide_5.jpg. Accessed 12/7/17.

¹⁶ Suffering for Conscience Sake. http://images.slideplayer.com/24/7300829/slides/slide_5.jpg. Accessed 12/8/17.

¹⁷ <https://www.dimanoimano.it/en/cp66071/arte/pittura-antica/anonimo-caravaggista-del-xvii-secolo>. 12/8/17.

3. **Worthy of death:** Mosaic Law prescribed death penalty for blasphemy, Leviticus 24:15-16.
4. **Spit on** = one of the most disgusting things can do. Way of showing total rejection.
 - a. In *To Kill A Mockingbird* (earlier mention) Bob Uhl spits in face of Atticus Finch.
 - i. Uhl was guilty of beating his own daughter & pinning blame on Tom Robinson.
 - ii. Finch defended an innocent man & knew truth about the guilty man.
 - iii. Uhl despised him so much for exposing truth, spit forcefully in his face.
 - iv. Finch slowly takes handkerchief from pocket & wipes away filth. Hard to watch.
 - b. But imagine this! *The foul-smelling spit running down the face of Jesus.*
 - c. *Spitting in the face of God.*¹⁸ Hard watch Atticus Finch, how much more Jesus.
5. **Cover face...strike...Prophecy!** Isaiah 11:3 says, *He shall not judge by sight of eyes.*
 - a. Rabbis taught the true Messiah could judge matters w/o benefit of sight.
 - b. These actions were ridicule of what they believed were false claims of Jesus.
 - c. One of hardest things endure is to know are right, but be ridiculed as wrong.
 - d. But then not to defend yourself, but accept abuse, cause know it is God's will.

B. Jesus' Response

1. But Jesus remained silent again. Know why? Another prophecy in mind.
 - a. (Show Isaiah 50:6)¹⁹ Right here began sufferings leading to death Isaiah predicted.
 - b. Jesus remained silent to suffer/die for us. *Christ also suffered for us*, 1 Peter 2:21.
 - c. God did not vindicate Jesus immediately. Had different plan, your salvation, mine.
2. Yesterday we had the chance to witness to a college student on Fisher Street.
 - a. He had a hard time actually believing God is a judge who will judge sinners.
 - b. Said that's the way some people look at it. But, if sin not judged, Jesus go to cross?
 - c. If God is not a judge, then their was no need for Jesus to go to the cross.
3. To help this NMU senior, we put it like this (using 2 contrasting hands).
 - a. On one hand, God loves us & doesn't want to punish us. *God is love*, 1 John 4:8.
 - b. On other hand, God is just & must punish sin. *Guilty not unpunished*, Exodus 34:7.
 - c. Seems like have dilemma in nature of God between love and justice. How be both?
 - d. *What God's justice demanded, God's love provided.*²⁰ God solved problem in Jesus.
 - e. Because silent & suffered, He took God's just wrath against us upon Himself.
 - f. Cause He rose again, He reigns supreme & can give eternal life to all who trust Him.

¹⁸ Vines, op. cit., p. 282.

¹⁹ <https://i.pinimg.com/736x/32/fc/f5/32fcf544a8ef678235a3c8095ddcb1bc--tore-submissive.jpg>. Accessed 12/8/17.

²⁰ Pastor Allan Engstrom's wonderful summary of how God solved this dilemma.