

**Not Guilty But Still Punished! Part 1**  
Just In An Unjust System in the Last Days  
Sermon Bible Notes, Pastor Cary Rodgers

## Introduction

Jesus says...

**John 15:20-21**

- 20 Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also.
- 21 But all these things will they do unto you for my name's sake, because they know not him that sent me.

Jesus reveals here that those who truly love and serve Jesus as Master in the last days will be hated and persecuted. As we get closer to the end of time it will intensify and become more frequent.

### Will you be able to remain just in an unjust system?

Are you ready for this? This is not the age to be a mambie pampie Christian. We must be equipped with the love of Jesus, the Word of God, and the commandments written in our hearts. We must be strictly obedient and discipline like a special forces soldier in order to remain just in an unjust system in the last days.

### Remember the suffering that Christ unjustly went through for us is the same path we have to take and it will only intensify and become more frequent as we get closer to the end of time.

**1Pe 2:21** For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps:

**1Pe 2:22** Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth:

**1Pe 2:23** Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed *himself* to him that judgeth righteously:

**1Pe 2:24** Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.

**This is the path Christ took and we must take. Christ was innocent yet treated with cruelty and killed on the cross for our sins.**

About two thousand years ago, Jesus was unjustly condemned and killed as a criminal through a judicial system that broke its own established judicial laws. He was unjustly arrested and bound. He had an unjust trial. He was cruelly and unjustly mocked, spit upon, beaten and brutally whipped **78 times across his body**. Then hung on the most feared and torturous form of capital punishment, the cross! He was declared innocent by the Roman governor, Pontius Pilate.

**John 19:4** Pilate therefore went forth again, and saith unto them, Behold, I bring him forth to you, that ye may know that I find no fault in him.

Even after this public declaration of innocence Jesus was still beaten and was lead to an unjust death. **He was not guilty, but still punished. Where were the protest, demonstrations, and pray vigils? Where was the public outrage against this injustice? Jesus who healed the sick, gave sight to the blind, cast out demons, healed the lame to walk again, and set at liberty those in**

**bondage to sin had NO one stand up in His defense! One of His twelve disciples betrayed him and the others scatter and ran. No protest, no demonstration, no signs, no press conferences, no speeches, no prayer vigils, no not one to speak up for the unjust punishment of Christ.** Instead of the protest, demonstrations, and speeches, the multitude participated in the injustice! Instead of saying, "Let the just one Jesus go, let Him go! He was done no wrong. He is innocent!" They said, "crucify him, crucify him, crucify him, nail Him to the cross!"

### **Despite His innocence, Jesus surrendered and laid down His life for our sins**

**Php 2:5** Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:

**Php 2:6** Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:

**Php 2:7** But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:

**Php 2:8** And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

The injustice that Jesus went through will be the same injustice that God's people will go through in the last days. Again it will become more intense and frequent as we get closer to the end of time! Are you ready for this?

### **Did you know in order to kill Jesus Israel broke its own established laws? Let's take a brief look at the judicial system that nailed Jesus to the cross.**

#### **Jewish Court System**

Even though Israel was under Roman authority they were given freedom to judge their own cases that only dealt with those who were Jews. For example if a Jew stole from another Jew they did not go to the Roman authority for trial they went to the Jewish judicial system. Each Jewish town had its own judicial Jewish council. They were given rights to enforce Jewish law, arrest, and conduct court trails only on Jewish citizens, but they did not have the right to carry out the death penalty without the approval from Roman authorities.

#### **The Sanhedrin Council**

The Jewish Supreme Court at the time of Jesus was known as the Sanhedrin also know as "the Great Council", "the Council of Elders", and "the House of the Great Judgment." All local Jewish courts were answerable to the Great Sanhedrin. They were the most powerful judicial authority of Israel. The Sanhedrin consisted of 71 influential Jewish religious leaders who were chief priest, retired high priest, and scribes, leading elders of Israel who were professional historian or writers. Most members of the Sanhedrin were the wealthiest of all the Jews. They were appointed to their position for life until death or found guilty of a crime. The Sanhedrin's decisions were final, but if they found someone worthy of the death penalty it had to be approved by the Roman government. The Sanhedrin was a replacement of the ancient council of 70 that became advisers to Moses in Numbers 11:16.

Many of the Sanhedrin were either from two popular sects that were at consist odds of each other, the Sadducees and Pharisees or professional scribes.

#### **Who are the Pharisees?**

Mainly religious Jewish leaders or people of influence and wealth. They were very religious known for their many "purification" washing ceremonies. They believed that these ceremonies kept them "clean." The name Pharisee means, "separatist. They were called that because they separated

themselves from anything they deemed as unclean. They were also known for their fasting. They also were responsible to adding unreasonable burdens to God's law that was unbiblical.

### **Who are the Sadducees?**

Most of the wealthiest and upper religious leader belonged to the Sadducee. This sect or group was named after their founder Zadok. They were also known as Zadokim. They greatly opposed some of the doctrines of the Pharisees such as life after death. The Sadducees did not believe in the resurrection and believed the man only has one life to live on this earth without the possibility of resurrected.

### **Who are the scribes?**

The scribes were not a sect, but a group of "learned" professional leading elders of the religious Jewish community. They were the professional writers and historians. Many of them were Pharisees. They wrote many of the Pharisaic books that was taught in the schools of high learning.

### **Pharisees and the Sadducees**

The Pharisees and the Sadducees hated each other, but they both hated Christ.

Why did they hate Christ?

Remember many were members of the Sanhedrin and leaders of the Jew. They were highly influential and their example was leading people away from God, they were blind guides. They hated Christ because they rejected the truth!

Jesus out of compassion want them to turn from the fable, pride and man made traditions to the truth of Jesus who can forgive them from sin and truly cleanse and make them whole. Appeal after appeal was made to them to show them their error and turn from sin.

### **What did Jesus reveal about the Pharisees and Sadducees?**

**Mar 7:5** Then the Pharisees and scribes asked him, Why walk not thy disciples according to the tradition of the elders, but eat bread with unwashen hands?

**Mar 7:6** He answered and said unto them, **Well hath Esaias prophesied of you hypocrites, as it is written, This people honoureth me with *their* lips, but their heart is far from me.**

**Mar 7:7** **Howbeit in vain do they worship me, teaching *for* doctrines the commandments of men.**

**Mar 7:8** **For laying aside the commandment of God, ye hold the tradition of men, *as* the washing of pots and cups: and many other such like things ye do.**

**Mar 7:9** And he said unto them, **Full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition.**

The Pharisee, Sadducees, and scribes, leaders of the of the Jewish and part of the Sanhedrin hated Jesus because they rejected Him. They did not want Jesus to interfere with the prideful plans for power, money and influence.

**Those of the Sanhedrin hated Jesus so much that they violated their own establish laws of justice to put Jesus to the cross. There are historical records of the Jewish judicial system in which the Sanhedrin was supposed to abide to at all times to make sure all people get a fair trail.** Matter of fact, when someone was charged with a crime, it was the burden of the accusing side to bring evident that the defendant committed the crime. **The one accused did not have a defense attorney. The Sanhedrin was to act as a defender. They sided with the defendant unless**

evident clearly showed that the accused was guilty. They all were involved in the process asking many informative questions in order for the truth to be revealed. But when they brought Christ before them they had one objective, kill him. They were determined not to give Jesus a fair trial because of bitter hatred.

**What were ten of those judicial Jewish laws in which Sanhedrin violated? (There were several)**

**1 – All legal proceedings, hearings, trails, including arrests were forbidden at night.**

Jesus arrest was a night and the legal proceeding begin at night and last until the next morning.

**Mat 26:30** And when they had sung an hymn, they went out into the mount of Olives.

**Mat 26:31** Then saith Jesus unto them, **All ye shall be offended because of me this night: for it is written, I will smite the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock shall be scattered abroad.**

**Mat 26:32** **But after I am risen again, I will go before you into Galilee.**

**Mat 26:33** Peter answered and said unto him, Though all *men* shall be offended because of thee, *yet* will I never be offended.

**Mat 26:34** Jesus said unto him, **Verily I say unto thee, That this night, before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice.**

**Mat 26:45** Then cometh he to his disciples, and saith unto them, **Sleep on now, and take your rest: behold, the hour is at hand, and the Son of man is betrayed into the hands of sinners.**

**Mat 26:46** **Rise, let us be going: behold, he is at hand that doth betray me.**

**Mat 26:47** And while he yet spake, lo, Judas, one of the twelve, came, and with him a great multitude with swords and staves, from the chief priests and elders of the people.

**Mar 15:1** And straightway in the morning the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council, and bound Jesus, and carried *him* away, and delivered *him* to Pilate.

**2 – Forbidden to use a traitor who was an accomplice to the alleged crime.** The Sanhedrin wanted to accuse Jesus of insurrection against the Roman government, but Judas a disciple of Jesus was the treasurer of the “operation.” Would that make Judas an accomplice? They could not make an arrest solely on Judas testimony and betrayal.

**3- They were supposed to have a legal summon from the court.** Similar to a warrant for arrest that the accused has to report to court to answer charges. They did not have this when they arrested Jesus.

**4 – It was illegal to bind an uncondemned man.**

**Joh 18:12** Then the band and the captain and officers of the Jews took Jesus, and bound him,

**Mat 26:55** In that same hour said Jesus to the multitudes, **Are ye come out as against a thief with swords and staves for to take me? I sat daily with you teaching in the temple, and ye laid no hold on me.**

**5 – Hebrew law prohibited a single judge to sit alone, from questioning an accused person or to sit in judgment to make final judicial decisions on the case.**

Jesus was first taken to Annas, a retired High Priest and president of the Sanhedrin. Most influential man of Israel..

**Joh 18:13** And led him away to Annas first; for he was father in law to Caiaphas, which was the high priest that same year.

Then he was taken to Caiaphas the high priest at his palace son in law Annas

**Mat 26:57** And they that had laid hold on Jesus led *him* away to Caiaphas the high priest, where the scribes and the elders were assembled.

**Mat 26:58** But Peter followed him afar off unto the high priest's palace, and went in, and sat with the servants, to see the end.

### **6 – Private preliminary judicial were prohibited. They had to be publicly known.**

**Mat 26:3** Then assembled together the chief priests, and the scribes, and the elders of the people, unto the palace of the high priest, who was called Caiaphas,

**Mat 26:4** And consulted that they might take Jesus by subtilty, and kill *him*.

### **7- Hitting the accused during trail was illegal**

**Joh 18:22** And when he had thus spoken, one of the officers which stood by struck **Jesus with the palm** of his hand, saying, Answerest thou the high priest so?

**Mar 14:65** And some began to spit on him, and to cover his face, and to buffet him, and to say unto him, Prophecy: and the servants did strike him with the palms of their hands.

### **8- All those of the Sanhedrin who got false witnesses to witness against Jesus should have been removed from the court proceedings according to Hebrew law. All those involved deserved the death penalty both the members of the Sanhedrin and false witnesses.**

**Deu 19:16** If a false witness rise up against any man to testify against him *that which is* wrong;

**Deu 19:17** Then both the men, between whom the controversy *is*, shall stand before the LORD, before the priests and the judges, which shall be in those days;

**Deu 19:18** And the judges shall make diligent inquisition: and, behold, *if* the witness *be* a false witness, *and* hath testified falsely against his brother;

**Deu 19:19** Then shall ye do unto him, as he had thought to have done unto his brother: so shalt thou put the evil away from among you.

**Mat 26:59** Now the chief priests, and elders, and all the council, sought false witness against Jesus, to put him to death;

**Mat 26:60** But found none: yea, though many false witnesses came, *yet* found they none. At the last came two false witnesses,

### **9- Self-accusation or incrimination based on the defendant's own confession in capital cases involving the death penalty was illegal.**

Jesus knew this clearly. That is the reason why he refused to answer questions that will incriminate himself concerning their unclear charge of insurrection.

Look what Jesus says when he was brought before Annas (retired High Priest)

**Joh 18:19** The high priest then asked Jesus of his disciples, and of his doctrine.

**Joh 18:20** Jesus answered him, **I spake openly to the world; I ever taught in the synagogue, and in the temple, whither the Jews always resort; and in secret have I said nothing.**

**Joh 18:21** **Why askest thou me? ask them which heard me, what I have said unto them: behold, they**

know what I said.

**This is the reason why they went to get false witnesses!**

Then when Jesus goes before Caiaphas next he does not answer the charge (did not want to incriminate self)

Mar 14:56 For many bare false witness against him, but their witness agreed not together.

Mar 14:57 And there arose certain, and bare false witness against him, saying,

Mar 14:58 We heard him say, I will destroy this temple that is made with hands, and within three days I will build another made without hands.

Mar 14:59 But neither so did their witness agree together.

Mar 14:60 And the high priest stood up in the midst, and asked Jesus, saying, Answerest thou nothing? what *is it which* these witness against thee?

Mar 14:61 But he held his peace, and answered nothing.

**Jesus did answer question about His divine identity and authority. What did Caiaphas do when Jesus answers about who he is? He condemns Jesus base on that one answer... illegal.**

Mar 14:61 But he held his peace, and answered nothing. Again the high priest asked him, and said unto him, Art thou the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?

Mar 14:62 And Jesus said, **I am: and ye shall see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven.**

Mar 14:63 Then the high priest rent his clothes, and saith, What need we any further witnesses?

Mar 14:64 Ye have heard the blasphemy: what think ye? And they all condemned him to be guilty of death.

**10 – Trail of Jesus was illegal because it was based on bribery. They all should have been disqualified. They bribed Judas to deliver Jesus into their hands for only thirty pieces of silver, the price of a slave during that time.**

Mat 27:2 And when they had bound him, they led *him* away, and delivered him to Pontius Pilate the governor.

Mat 27:3 Then Judas, which had betrayed him, when he saw that he was condemned, repented himself, and brought again the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders,

Mat 27:4 Saying, I have sinned in that I have betrayed the innocent blood. And they said, What *is that* to us? see thou *to that*.

Mat 27:5 And he cast down the pieces of silver in the temple, and departed, and went and hanged himself.

This is to show us how corrupt the judicial of Jewish had become during the time of Christ.

When the Jewish Sanhedrin condemned Jesus to death and brought Jesus before the Roman governor, Pilate, to get approval to kill Him, they did not even have a clear criminal charge! The charge of blasphemy was not a charge that Rome would normally approve of, it did not break any of their laws! In was NOT death worthy.

**Even Pilate knew that these were made up charges because the Jewish leaders hated Jesus.**

Mat 27:17 Therefore when they were gathered together, Pilate said unto them, Whom will ye that I release unto you? Barabbas, or Jesus which is called Christ?

Mat 27:18 For he knew that for envy they had delivered him.

He knew that the Jewish leader wanted Jesus killed purely out of hate and jealousy. Even though he declared him innocent he had him killed for political reason.

**Jesus was NOT Guilty, But Still Punished....**

**What are some lessons that is revealed in the unjust trail of Jesus that we need to know?**

**To be continued Look at Part 2**