

# The Illegal Trial of Jesus

## **Introduction:**

- A. The trial and crucifixion of Jesus are the greatest miscarriages of justice in all history.
- B. We cannot fully understand what happened without knowing something about the system.

## **Discussion:**

### ***1. The Trial of Jesus: Hebrew and Roman***

- A. First, convicted under Hebrew Law. The foundations of that system are found in the Pentateuch and the Talmud.
- B. The Talmud – divided into two parts: Mishnah and Gemara

### ***2. Hebrew Criminal Law – Courts and Judges***

- A. The Lower Tribunal – “Court of the Three”
- B. The Minor Sanhedrin – 23 members
- C. The Great Sanhedrin
  - 1. Jurisdiction
  - 2. Organization (Mk 14:53)
  - 3. Qualifications
  - 4. Disqualifications
  - 5. Officers
  - 6. Compensation
  - 7. Number of votes required to acquit or convict

### ***3. Certain Characteristics of Hebrew Jurisprudence***

- A. Laws of the Court
- B. Rules of Court Procedure
- C. The Rights of the Defendant
- D. The Requirements of the Witnesses
- E. The Law of Evidence

### ***4. The Trial and Events Leading Up To It***

- A. Jesus cleansed the Temple for the second time (Jno. 2:3-16; Mt. 21:17; Mk. 11:15-19; Lk. 19:45-48)
- B. Passion Week (Lk. 19:47-48; Mt. 21:23-27; 22:21-30; Lk. 22:1-2)

- C. Jesus betrayed by Judas (Mk. 14:3; Jno. 12:3; Mt. 26:14-15)
- D. The Arrest (Lk. 22:15; Jno. 13:21-27; Mk. 14:26; Jno. 18:4-13).
- E. The private examination before Annas (Jno. 18:20-24)
- F. The trial in the Palace of Caiaphas
- G. Violations of Hebrew Law in the Trial of Jesus

1. The arrest
2. The private examination
3. The proceeding of the Court
4. The place where the trial was held
5. The indictments
6. The indictment of blasphemy
7. The personal conduct of the High Priest
8. The simultaneous and unanimous vote of the Sanhedrin
9. The nature of the testimony against Jesus
10. The convening of the Sanhedrin before the morning sacrifice
11. The trial being concluded in one day
12. The trial conducted one day before the Sabbath.