

May 24, 2026



**WEEK 38 –JESUS’ JEWISH TRIALS (MATTHEW 26:57-68, pp.299-305)**

Though He remains powerful over all things (I AM), Jesus submits Himself to the shame and suffering of the cross. Last week we saw His arrest in the garden of Gethsemane. This week he stands trial before Caiphas and the Sanhedrin (Jewish council).

**Why was the legal situation so complicated in Jerusalem?**

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In CFM p300, we see several significant facts about the trials and charges Jesus faced. **How many times was Jesus tried before going to the cross? List them:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**What “shady” and/or “illegal” actions did the Sanhedrin take in the trial of Jesus?** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Why are the Jewish leaders so committed to eliminating Jesus?**

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**During the trial, why does Jesus refuse to answer accusations?**  
(Read Deuteronomy 17:6, Mark 14:55-59, Isaiah 53:7) \_\_\_\_\_

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In ancient literature the technique known as “chiasm” highlights the center point of a text. Notice this:

- 1- Mt 26:59 – The want to “put him to death”
- 2- Mt 26:60 – “many false witnesses came forward” (*silence*)
- 3- Mt 26:63 – CP asks: “Are you the Christ?”
- 4- Mt 26:64 – You have said so....You will see the Son of Man**
- 3- Mt. 26:65 – CP says: “He has uttered blasphemy.”
- 2- Mt 26:65 – What further (false) witness do we need?
- 1- Mt 26:66 – He deserves death

While He does not answer the false witnesses, Jesus does testify concerning Himself. Read Daniel 7:13-14. **What is Jesus saying about Himself?** \_\_\_\_\_

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*“Blasphemy is language that dishonors God.” (CFM, p302)*  
**Why does Caiphas believe Jesus’ testimony amounts to blasphemy?**

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**Why is it Caiphas who is actually committing blasphemy?**

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**How has Peter also committed blasphemy?** (see Mt. 16:16, 26:33,35)

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**How are we tempted to “dishonor God” with our words and deeds?**

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*“In a complete reversal, the man Caiphas judged will one day return to judge all of the living and the dead...the judged will be the Judge. And all who are covered in His blood will be declared innocent by grace through faith!” (CFM, p302)*

**How has the judgment against Jesus brought salvation to you?**

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**For Next Time:**  
**WEEK 39 – PETER’S DENIALS, JUDAS’S DEATH (MATTHEW 26:69-27:10, pp.307-313)**