



Today's Message

Date: September 11, 2022
Speaker: Pastor Steven Thomas
Title: *The Perversion of Justice, Part 1*

Text: Luke 22:63–71 (ESV)

⁶³ Now the men who were holding Jesus in custody were mocking him as they beat him. ⁶⁴ They also blindfolded him and kept asking him, “Prophecy! Who is it that struck you?” ⁶⁵ And they said many other things against him, blaspheming him.

⁶⁶ When day came, the assembly of the elders of the people gathered together, both chief priests and scribes. And they led him away to their council, and they said, ⁶⁷ “If you are the Christ, tell us.” But he said to them, “If I tell you, you will not believe, ⁶⁸ and if I ask you, you will not answer. ⁶⁹ But from now on the Son of Man shall be seated at the right hand of the power of God.” ⁷⁰ So they all said, “Are you the Son of God, then?” And he said to them, “You say that I am.” ⁷¹ Then they said, “What further testimony do we need? We have heard it ourselves from his own lips.”

Introduction: At the same time Peter was denying his Lord (Luke 22:54-62), Jesus was enduring a gross perversion of justice. His adversaries pressed him, seeking an excuse to justify the verdict they had already reached. The irony is that they presumed to sit in judgment on the One who is both King and Judge.

I. During the night, Jesus endured illegal pre-trial hearings. 63-65

A. Annas, the real power, interrogated Jesus.

B. Caiaphas, the figurehead, arraigned Jesus.

C. The arresting mob abused Jesus.

**II. The next morning, Jesus submitted to an illegal trial.
66-71**

A. The Sanhedrin assembled for a sham prosecution. 66

B. The high priest questioned Jesus regarding his identity: 67-70

1. Caiaphas' first question: "Are you the Christ?" 67a

2. Jesus' first answer: 67b-69

- "Why answer—you are determined not to believe me." 67b-68
- "You haven't even begun to grasp my real identity." 69

3. Caiaphas' second question: "Are you the Son of God?" 70a

4. Jesus' second answer: "As you have said." 70b

C. The verdict: Guilty! Condemned by his own testimony.

Today's take-home truth: Those who presume to sit in judgment over Jesus will some day face him as the divine Judge.

Implications: