



“Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you...” Matthew 28:20

Church of Christ • 13800 S. 4080 Road • P.O. Box 527 • Oologah, Oklahoma 74053

The Trial of Jesus

Tom Wacaster

Of all the trials that have ever been convened, there is one that stands out far and above all the others. This trial was conducted long before someone had coined the phrase trial of the century. I speak, of course, of the trial of our Lord. The trial of Jesus was unique in many ways, not the least of which was its aberrant illegality. No legitimate charge was ever brought against our Lord. He never committed a civil crime, nor did He break a single Jewish law. Witnesses? There were none, at least truthful ones. No conviction was possible without evidence on which two witnesses must agree. But then, how is it possible to present evidence of a crime when there was no crime? In violation of Jewish law, His trial was held at night and not available to the public. When the case was brought before Pilate, that weak governor tried in vain to release Jesus and eventually bowed to the pressure of the mob rather than exercise proper juris prudence. Yes, our Lord’s trial was the trial of the century — any century and every century. Consider the following.

First, Jesus was wrongfully arrested. The proper time to seize an offender is when the offence is committed, or as soon afterwards as possible. Jesus taught daily in the Temple. He was always open, engaging scholars and sinners alike. Yet His enemies never arrested Him. They had no legal right to arrest Him in the Garden. When the soldiers came toward Him, He surrendered Himself willingly; and it was wrong, therefore, to bind Him as if He were a thief. By binding Him the Jewish authorities immediately introduced prejudice into the case, suggesting that He must be guilty merely because He was in custody.

Second, there were the suborned witnesses. Was there evidence of any wrongdoing? No one ever suggested that Jesus or His disciples had injured someone. Eager as His accusers were to make a case, not one witness could be found that could confidently affirm any wrongdoing on the part of Jesus with regard to the Law of Moses or the Law of Rome. For months, spies had attempted to entangle Jesus in His speech. The Jewish authorities presumed guilt rather than innocence and were determined to do what they could to prove Jesus to be a fraud. At the trial witnesses were sought, but none found. Truth suffered and lies were accepted as evidence for guilt.

Third, there were the warders; those whose responsibility it was to guard the accused from injury and mistreatment during the judicial proceedings. But these so-called guardians of justice sinned against our Lord, shamed themselves, and made a mockery of the entire proceedings. Though Jesus never once committed contempt of court or showed disrespect to those in position of authority, one of them struck Jesus on the mouth. Another blindfolded Him and mocked Him, calling Him a prophet and demanding that He tell those taunting Him who it was that struck Him. Throughout the long night and into the early morning hours, our Lord demonstrated love and patience far beyond that of ordinary men. He did not curse them. He did not smite them. He did not call for the legion of angels that were there at His beckon call had He so desired their assistance.

There was as well the illegality of conducting and completing the trial in one day, of the failure to consider any merits of defense, of the very indictment brought against our Savior, and that of the private examination before Annas prior to the trial itself. In every respect, the trial of Jesus ignored every aspect of proper juris prudence.

There remains yet one more trial that will be convened at some point in time unknown to mortal men. “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that which he hath done, whether it be good or bad” (2 Corinthians 5:10). On that occasion there will be no need for witnesses for your life will bear testimony to where you stand before the Judge of all mankind. There will be no appeal and no second chance. All things will be “naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do” (Hebrews 4:13). The verdict will be handed down from the righteous Judge. Those not washed in the blood of Jesus will stand condemned. Those washed in the precious blood of the Lamb will be declared “innocent,” and allowed entrance into that everlasting kingdom. Because Jesus endured the unjust trial of the century, God’s elect will enjoy the blessings of that final trial that all men will face.

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Neglecting Salvation

Jesse Dickison

In Hebrews 2:1-4, we read of neglecting salvation. This means that a lack of sufficient attention is given to salvation. Notice that salvation was first spoken by the Lord (verse 3). If we want to know what to do to be saved, we must go to the Lord’s words — not the words of Abraham, Moses or John the Baptist. Nor should we look for salvation in the words of Joseph Smith (Mormonism) Ellen G. White (Adventism) or Mary Baker Eddy (Christian Scientist). Jesus had the words of eternal life (John 6:68). He still does. Men must be taught the Lord’s words (John 6:44-45). Men must receive that same word (James 1:21). When men neglect the Lord’s words, they neglect salvation. There is a great danger in neglecting our salvation.

First, we can become hardened by sin (Hebrews 3:12-13). For a picture of how hardened a heart can become, read Hebrews 6:4-6. Remember: Paul once said the gentiles were “past feeling” (Ephesians 4:19).

Second, how can we escape the judgment of condemnation? We know there will be a judgment (Hebrews 9:27). Paul tells us that we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ (2 Corinthians 5:10). To neglect salvation is to endanger our souls.

Third, how can we escape God’s wrath (Hebrews 10:31)? People who are impenitent have God’s wrath facing them (Romans 2:4-10). The Bible still teaches that there is a hell (Mark 9:43). To neglect salvation is to face God’s wrath.

Why do people neglect salvation? Because some of them are deceived by sin. Some are too proud to admit their need of God. Others seem to be looking for a “convenient season.” And some (perhaps most) feel they are the exception. A great majority feel they have plenty of time to make things right with God. James 4:13-14 shows this just may not be true. “The saddest words of tongue or pen may possibly be: ‘It might have been.’” Too much is at stake for anyone to neglect salvation. The Christian life is too wonderful not to live it. Heaven is too great for anyone to miss. Hell is too horrible to endure. And too many people can be led to the Lord by you!! Please give heed and do not neglect your salvation.

“And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent: ³¹ Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by *that* man whom he hath ordained; *whereof* he hath given assurance unto all *men*, in that he hath raised him from the dead.” — Acts 17:30-31

Observations and Concerns

September 20, 2023

Welcome Visitors! You are our honored guests!

Praise in Psalm: “I will give thee thanks in the great congregation: I will praise thee among much people” (Psalm 35:18).

Declaration of Appreciation: To those who work hard preparing for potlucks and cleaning up afterwards. Thank You!

There will be an *ice cream and dessert reception* to say farewell to the Praschnik and Carmona families this Sunday after evening services. Please bring your favorite ice cream or dessert to share.

We rejoice with the angels of heaven because *Joyce Cash* came forward last Wednesday asking for forgiveness and prayers.

Remember in Prayer:

- ▶ *Jim Allison* received good results from his biopsy. To God be the praise!
- ▶ *Sammy Gray* will be having medical tests conducted in the coming weeks.
- ▶ *Andy Hudson* was in a car accident and is recovering at home.
- ▶ *Nelda Hudson* had a Loop procedure on her heart this week. The procedure went smoothly, and she is feeling well.

The Lee & Walnut church in Sapulpa will be conducting a Gospel Meeting October 8-11 with Tommy Stacks. The theme is “**Heaven — The Home of the Righteous.**”

Reminder: If you have news for the Oologah Observer, please give it to Chelley or Chuck before Tuesday morning each week.

Schedule of Services	Assignments		
		Wednesday, Sep. 20	Sunday, Sep. 24 AM
			Sunday, Sep. 24 PM
	Announcements	Chris Nelson	Chris Nelson
	Song Leader	Doyle Jackson	Ross Swearingen
	Prayer	Hayden Praschnik	Bill Dilks
	Lord's Supper (speaker)		Chris Nelson
	Lord's Supper		Hayden Praschnik
	Lesson	Ross Swearingen	Chuck Northrop
	Prayer / Door Attendant	Paul Praschnik	Paul Praschnik