

Easter Teachings No. 7

The Religious Trial before the Sanhedrin

The parallel accounts of this can be found in Matthew 27:1, Mark 15:1a and Luke 22:66-71

The religious leaders waited for daylight and reconvened, trying to give some kind of legality to the trial, really in pretence that the events of the previous night had not taken place. This trial was held not in the private houses of Annas or Caiaphas but in the Hall of Judgement in the Temple Compound, just as their own law required.

Jesus was asked by the Sanhedrin 'If you are the Christ tell us'. Jesus answered that he had already answered that question before and they did not believe him.

They then asked him if he was the Son of God and Jesus answered 'You say that I am', and remember that was a way of giving an emphatic answer in the affirmative 'YES'.

They then said again they had no need of witnesses, that they had heard his claim from his own mouth.

The whole assembly rose and took him to Pilate for another Trial. Why was another trial needed?

The death penalty had been removed from the Jewish authorities in 30AD, in fact only a few months before this trial. The Jews wanted Jesus to be put to death but they had no authority to do this, this was a matter for the Roman leadership. Interestingly, had the Jewish authorities had the power to execute Jesus, he would have been stoned to death, as the method of capital punishment of the Jews was by stoning. However in fulfilment of Isaiah 53 and Psalm 22, the death of Jesus had to be carried out by crucifixion.

And so Jesus who had been awake all night, on trial, beaten, punched, slapped and mocked was now taken before the Roman Procurator, Pontius Pilate for yet another trial.