

# SERMON NOTES

*Reason to Believe: The Great Conflict*  
John 18:12-19:16

Jesus has been arrested. They have bound Him. As if the mere bonds of men can keep the One who will overcome death, hell, and the grave. It's late at night, Jesus is whisked away to face a night of trials. The trials of Jesus expose the reality of spiritual conflict.

**Key thought:** You are facing spiritual conflict; be certain you are on the right side!

Reading all four gospel narratives, (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John), you piece together a complete picture of what transpired. There were two distinct trials, one Hebrew (religious), and one Roman (civil). Each trial was marked by three distinct parts:

**The Hebrew trial was characterized by:**

1. The appearance before Annas.
2. The trial at the night session of Caiaphas and the Sanhedrin.
3. The examination at the morning sitting of the same court.

**The Roman trial was marked by:**

1. The appearance of Jesus before Pilate.
2. His arraignment before Herod.
3. His reappearance before Pilate.

The trials of Jesus represent the ultimate mockery of justice. Laws were disregarded and there were clear illegalities. Why were those involved so determined to see Jesus killed? It's simple, they hated Him. The conflict between light and darkness, truth and falsehood were clearly on display. As you face spiritual conflict, remember to be certain you are on the right side!

**Spiritual conflict is a reality! (Ephesians 6:10-12; 2 Corinthians 10:3-6)**

Matthew 26:57-68; Mark 14:53-65; Luke 22:66-71

- a. Kingdom (vs. 18:36-37, 19:12-15)
- b. Truth (vs. 18:37-38; 19:7)
- c. Authority (vs. 19:10-11)

**You will be tested in your loyalty to Jesus Christ. (Peter's Denials)**

Matthew 26:69-75; Mark 14:66-72; Luke 22:54-62; John 18:15-18, 25-27

**Jesus wins! Guilty men go free because Jesus took their place.**

Matthew 27:15-23; Mark 15:6-15; Luke 23:18-25; John 18:38-40

For Christ also died for sins once for all, the just for the unjust, so that He might bring us to God, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit. 1 Peter 3:18