

March 15, 2015

“Eyewitness Views”

Eyewitness: Pastor Ryan

Part 4

“Facing Trials...Again!”

“Jesus answered, ‘My Kingdom is not an earthly kingdom. If it were, my followers would fight to keep me from being handed over to the Jewish leaders. But my Kingdom is not of this world.’”

John 18:36

The Trials of Jesus: Matthew 26:57-27:31; Mark 14:53-15:20;

Luke 22:54-23:25; John 18:12-19:16

A. Jesus faced seven trials...

1. The first trial...

At the House of Annas: Annas was the former High Priest discharged because of his corruption.

2. The second trial...

At the Palace of Caiaphas the High Priest: Caiaphas was the son-in-law of Annas.

3. The third trial...

Before the Sanhedrin in the Temple in the Council of Chamber: 71 Jewish leaders met to govern the religious community.

4. The fourth trial...

Before Pilate at his Jerusalem residence: Pilate was the governor and his usual residence was Caesarea, the Roman capital.

5. The fifth trial...

At the Palace of Herod Antipas: Herod had been the one who took John the Baptist’s life.

6. The sixth trial...

Back to Pilate the Governor again: Pilate’s political career was now threatened.

7. The seventh trial...

Before the people: Pilate had no answer but to throw the final decision to the people.

B. Jesus faced seven illegal trials...

“He was despised and rejected—a man of sorrows, acquainted with deepest grief. We turned our backs on him and looked the other way. He was despised, and we did not care.” Isaiah 53:3

1. The first trial was illegal. He was interrogated without charges, at night, and was unlawfully struck as a prisoner.
2. The second trial was illegal. He was accused by false witnesses (two or three witnesses were needed), at night, only in the Council Chamber of the Temple, and the High Priest accused rather than playing a fair judge as his position required.
3. The third trial was illegal. It was not to be held on a Feast Day; the younger members were to be polled first and all to be polled; there was to be a representative for Jesus; the High Priest was not to tear his garments; they could not originate charges only try them; there were to be 24 hours between verdict and sentencing; and three days between the sentence and execution needed to exist.
4. The fourth through the seventh trials were all illegal. His charges were changed from blasphemy to treason; He was arrested and bound, though innocent (the accused could not testify against himself); Herod made no accusation but abused the prisoner (he just wanted to see a miracle); and without proof they allowed an innocent man to be crucified (crucifixion was unknown to Jewish law).

“He was oppressed and treated harshly, yet he never said a word. He was led like a lamb to the slaughter. And as a sheep is silent before the shearers, he did not open his mouth.” Isaiah 53:7

C. Jesus faced trials that we all face, but what motivated these trials?

“Yet it was our weaknesses he carried; it was our sorrows that weighed him down. And we thought his troubles were a punishment from God, a punishment for his own sins! But he was

pierced for our rebellion, crushed for our sins. He was beaten so we could be whole. He was whipped so we could be healed.” Isaiah 53:4-5

1. Annas was afraid of losing income and prestige. His family owned the concession to sell animals for sacrifice and the money exchange. It was all about money!
2. Caiaphas was afraid of losing power and position. It was all about power!
3. Herod was afraid of losing popularity. It was all about importance!
4. Pilate was afraid and compromised. He didn’t want to lose his life, his career and his own position. It was all about position and power!

D. Jesus faces every trial that you may go through...

“This High Priest of ours understands our weaknesses, for he faced all of the same testings we do, yet he did not sin.” Hebrews 4:15

1. We may face prejudice...but Jesus is with us.
2. We may face ridicule...but Jesus is with us.
3. We may face injustice...but Jesus is with us.
4. We may face abandonment...but Jesus is with us!

He faced the loss of those He loved!

He faced abandonment of everyone close to

Him...including the Father when He became sin!

He faced lies! He faced injustice, hardship, physical and emotional abuse, hypocrisy, and every kind of evil! So whatever you face...Jesus is there!

“Since he himself has gone through suffering and testing, he is able to help us when we are being tested.” Hebrews 2:18