

# The Passion of the Christ Movie and Study – Week 2 of 7

*Jesus is Tried by the Sanhedrin; Peter's Denial; Judas' Death!*

[www.BLC7500.com](http://www.BLC7500.com)

## General Information:

- Schedule: Saturdays 3:00; Sundays 10:30
- 6<sup>th</sup> grade and older are welcome to attend!
- *Caution!* The movie is brutal, but it does portray what Jesus endured for us all!
- Let us realize the terrible reality of sin and greatly rejoice in God's gift of salvation!
- This study will conclude on Palm Sunday and be excellent preparation for Holy Week!

**A Summary of our 7-Week Study** (*The 119-minute movie will be viewed in seven 17-minute segments*):

- 1: *Jesus Prays in Gethsemane and is Arrested!*
- 2: *Jesus is Tried by the Sanhedrin; Peter's Denial; Judas' Death!*
- 3: *Jesus Before Pilate, Herod, and Pilate!*
- 4: *Jesus is Beaten and Condemned!*
- 5: *Jesus' Journey to Golgotha!*
- 6: *Jesus is Crucified; One Criminal is Saved!*
- 7: *Jesus' Speaks, Dies, is Buried, and is Raised!*

## Today's Movie Clip! (16:14 – 38:02)

### **Jesus is Taken First to Annas; Peter's Denial is Also Included** (*John 18:12-24*):

1. Even though the movie seems to combine two of Jesus' trials – *one with Annas and one with Caiaphas* – into one trial, the gospel of John makes it clear that there were two separate trials.
2. The CSSB gives this *summary* of Jesus' trials: Jesus' trial took place in two stages: a **Jewish trial** and a **Roman trial**, each of which had three episodes.

The three episodes of the Jewish trial:

- a. The preliminary hearing before Annas, *the former high priest*.
- b. The trial before Caiaphas, *the ruling high priest*, and the Sanhedrin.

- c. The final action of the council, which terminated its all-night session [*which was also illegal – because it was at night*].

The three episodes of the Roman trial:

- a. The trial before Pilate.
- b. The trial before Herod Antipas.
- c. The trial before Pilate continued and concluded (1534).

**NAS John 18:12-13** So the Roman cohort and the commander, and the officers of the Jews, arrested Jesus and bound Him, and led Him to **Annas first**; for he was father-in-law of Caiaphas, who was high priest that year.

3. The gospel of Luke records that John the Baptizer began his ministry “during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas...” (Luke 3:2 NIV).
4. *Annas*. “Had been deposed from the high priesthood by the Romans in A.D. 15 but was probably still regarded by many as the true high priest” (CSSB, 1641).
5. Why was Jesus tried both by Annas and Caiaphas? “In Jewish law a man could not be sentenced on the day his trial was held. The two examinations... may have been conducted to give some form of legitimacy to what was done” (CSSB, 1641).

**<sup>14</sup> Now Caiaphas was the one who had advised the Jews that it was expedient for one man to die on behalf of the people.**

6. What *highly significant miracle* did Jesus perform, which is recorded in John chapter 11? \_\_\_\_\_

*This was the response:* **NIV John 11:45-50** Therefore many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary, and had seen what Jesus did, put their faith in him. But some of them went to the Pharisees and

told them what Jesus had done. Then the chief priests and the Pharisees called a meeting of the Sanhedrin. “What are we accomplishing?” they asked. “Here is this man performing many miraculous signs. **If we let him go on like this, everyone will believe in him, and then the Romans will come and take away both our place and our nation.**” Then one of them, named Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, spoke up, “You know nothing at all! **You do not realize that it is better for you that one man die for the people than that the whole nation perish.**”

7. Why could it be said that Jesus was putting the whole nation in jeopardy? Think about the structure of the government:

Romans

Sanhedrin (Jewish Leaders)

Regular Jews

The regular Jews were *ruled by* and *listened to* the Jewish Leaders; however, as more and more believed in Jesus, they began to listen to Him, which put the positions of the Jewish Leaders in jeopardy and, *in their minds*, could have led to the regular Jews rebelling against the Romans.

8. The following section includes Peter’s denial; it is also recorded in Matthew 26:69-75; Mark 14:66-72; and Luke 22:54-62.

<sup>15-18</sup> And Simon Peter was following Jesus, and so was another disciple [possibly John]. Now that disciple was known to the high priest, and entered with Jesus into the court of the high priest, but Peter was standing at the door outside. So the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out and spoke to the doorkeeper, and brought in Peter. The slave-girl therefore who kept the door said to Peter, “**You are not also one of this man’s disciples, are you?**” He said, “**I am not.**” Now the slaves and the officers were standing *there*, having made a charcoal fire, for it was cold and they were

warming themselves; and Peter also was with them, standing and warming himself.

9. John records Peter’s other two denials in 18:25-27; Peter denied Jesus three times, *just as Jesus had predicted* (Matt. 26:30-35; Mark 14:26-31; Luke 22:34, 39; John 13:37-38). “The other Gospels seem to indicate that the other denials followed immediately, but it is likely that there were intervals during which other things happened” (CSSB, 1642).
10. What does Jesus promise to do regarding those who *continue to deny Him without repentance*? (Matt. 7:23; 10:33)
- 
11. Peter denied knowing Jesus (John 17:3); it is also a very serious matter to:

- a. ***Be ashamed of Jesus***: “If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when he comes in his Father’s glory with the holy angels” (Mark 8:38 NIV).
- b. ***Shrink back from living by faith***: “But my righteous one will live by faith. And if he shrinks back, I will not be pleased with him. But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who believe and are saved” (Heb. 10:38-39 NIV).

12. There is *good news* for those who have denied, been ashamed, or shrunk back: See Acts 3:19

<sup>19-24</sup> The high priest [Annas] therefore questioned Jesus about His disciples, and about His teaching. Jesus answered him, “**I have spoken openly to the world; I always taught in synagogues, and in the temple, where all the Jews come together; and I spoke nothing in secret. Why do you question Me? Question those who have heard what I spoke to them; behold, these know what I said.**” And when He had said this, one of the officers standing by gave Jesus a blow [probably with the open hand; a slap], saying, “Is that the way You answer the

high priest?” Jesus answered him, “If I have spoken wrongly, bear witness of the wrong; but if rightly, why do you strike Me?” Annas therefore sent Him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.

### **Jesus is Taken to Caiaphas and the Sanhedrin**

(Matthew 26:57-67; Mark 14:53-65):

<sup>NIV</sup> **Matthew 26:57** Those who had arrested Jesus took him to Caiaphas, the **high priest**, where the **teachers of the law** and the **elders** had assembled.

- 13. Sanhedrin.** “The high court of the Jews. In NT times it was made up of three kinds of members: chief priests, elders, and teachers of the law. Its total membership numbered 71, including the high priest, who was presiding officer” (CSSB, 1535).

<sup>58-60</sup> But Peter followed him at a distance, right up to the courtyard of the high priest. He entered and sat down with the guards to see the outcome. **The chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin were looking for false evidence against Jesus so that they could put him to death.** But they did not find any, though many false witnesses came forward.

- 14.** Though false witnesses came forward and told various lies about Jesus, why was their testimony unacceptable?

- 
- a. <sup>NIV</sup> **Deuteronomy 17:6** On the testimony of two or three witnesses a man shall be put to death, but no one shall be put to death on the testimony of only one witness.
- b. <sup>NIV</sup> **Deuteronomy 19:15** One witness is not enough to convict a man accused of any crime or offense he may have committed. A matter must be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.

<sup>60-63</sup> Finally, two came forward and declared, “This fellow said, ‘I am able to destroy the temple of God and rebuild it in three days.’”

Then the high priest stood up and said to Jesus, “Are you not going to answer? What is this testimony that these men are bringing against you?” But **Jesus remained silent.**

- 15.** <sup>NIV</sup> **Isaiah 53:7** He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth.

<sup>63</sup> The high priest said to him, “**I charge you under oath by the living God:** Tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God.”

- 16.** “...when the high priest used this form [of question], [Jesus] was legally obliged to reply” (CSSB, 1493). Remember, *Jesus perfectly kept the law for us and all* (Matt. 5:17).

<sup>64-67</sup> “Yes, it is as you say,” Jesus replied. “But I say to all of you: In the future you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven” [Rev. 1:7]. Then **the high priest tore his clothes** and said, “He has spoken **blasphemy!** Why do we need any more witnesses? Look, now you have heard the blasphemy. What do you think?” “**He is worthy of death,**” they answered. Then they spit in his face and struck him with their fists. Others slapped him...

- 17. tore his clothes** – Though the high priest accused Jesus of breaking the law, *who was the real lawbreaker?* \_\_\_\_\_

<sup>NIV</sup> **Leviticus 10:6** Then Moses said to Aaron and his sons Eleazar and Ithamar, “Do not let your hair become unkempt, and do not tear your clothes, or you will die and the LORD will be angry with the whole community.”

<sup>NIV</sup> **Leviticus 21:10** The high priest, the one among his brothers who has had the anointing oil poured on his head and who has been ordained to wear the priestly garments, must not let his hair become unkempt or tear his clothes.

- 18. blasphemy.** “The sin of blasphemy not only involved reviling the name of God (see Lev. 24:10-16) but also included any

affront to his majesty or authority (see Mk. 2:7; 3:28-29; Jn. 5:18; 10:33). Jesus' claim to be the Messiah and, in fact, to have majesty and authority belonging only to God was therefore regarded by Caiaphas as blasphemy, for which the Mosaic law prescribed death by stoning (Lev. 24:16)" (CSSB, 1535).

19. Think about Jesus' ✦conception within a virgin, ✦birth location, ✦mighty miracles, ✦mind reading ability, and so much more! *Isn't it sad and shocking how many of the Jewish Leaders never even considered the possibility that Jesus might be the Promised Messiah!*

**(Not in the Bible) Flashback to Jesus as a Carpenter:**

20. <sup>NIV</sup> **Mark 6:3** Isn't this the carpenter? Isn't this Mary's son and the brother of James, Joseph, Judas and Simon? Aren't his sisters here with us?" And they took offense at him.
21. In Jesus' day people *reclined* rather than sat: <sup>NIV</sup> **Luke 22:14** When the hour came, Jesus and his apostles reclined at the table.

**(Not in the Bible) Two Members of the Sanhedrin Spoke Up for Jesus:**

22. That could be referring to *Joseph and Nicodemus*:
  - a. <sup>NIV</sup> **Mark 15:43** Joseph of Arimathea, a prominent member of the Council, who was himself waiting for the kingdom of God, went boldly to Pilate and asked for Jesus' body.
  - b. <sup>NIV</sup> **John 19:39** He [Joseph] was accompanied by Nicodemus, the man who earlier had visited Jesus at night. Nicodemus brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds.

**Judas is Sorry, Returns the Money, and Hangs Himself** (*Matthew 27:1-10*):

<sup>NIV</sup> **Matthew 27:1-10** Early in the morning, all the chief priests and the elders of the people came to the decision to put Jesus to death. They bound him, led him away and handed him over to Pilate, the governor. **When Judas, who had betrayed him, saw that Jesus was condemned, he was seized with remorse and returned the thirty silver coins to the chief priests and the elders. "I have sinned," he said, "for I have betrayed innocent blood."** "What is that to us?" they replied. "That's your responsibility." So **Judas threw the money into the temple and left. Then he went away and hanged himself.** The chief priests picked up the coins and said, "It is against the law to put this into the treasury, since it is blood money." So they decided to use the money to buy the potter's field as a burial place for foreigners. That is why it has been called the Field of Blood to this day. Then what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet was fulfilled: "They took the thirty silver coins, the price set on him by the people of Israel, and they used them to buy the potter's field, as the Lord commanded me." (Also see Acts 1:16-19)

**23. Both Peter and Judas:**

- a. They severed their relationships with Jesus – *through denial and betrayal!*
- b. They were *sorry for their sins!*

However, one received God's forgiveness in Christ and one committed suicide. Christ died for both of their sins, even all sins (1 John 2:2). None of us deserve God's forgiveness, but Peter, *by grace*, received God's forgiveness while Judas rejected God's forgiveness.

May God enable us to always know that *His forgiveness is greater than our sins*; then, may He enable us to *continually receive* His forgiveness through our ongoing faith relationship with our Lord Jesus Christ!