



CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION

DISTINGUISHED SPEAKER LECTURE 2014/2015

The Trial of Jesus in Western Legal Tradition

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DATE & TIME: 27 AUGUST 2014, WEDNESDAY, 6.00PM TO 8.00PM
 VENUE: AUDITORIUM, BLOCK B, LEVEL 3, NUS FACULTY OF LAW

ABSTRACT (DISTINGUISHED SPEAKER LECTURE)

“The trial of Jesus is arguably the most consequential legal event in the evolution of Western Civilization. It has a profound impact on the concept of Justice and its far reaching effect is felt whether or not one is religious or non-religious.”

The trials of Christ

- (like the rest of the Bible) are historically accurate.

A reliable collection of historical documents

- 66 different books in 3 languages
- 40 writers over 1500 years

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- 40 writers over 1500 years
- 23,000 archaeological digs
- About 25,000 ancient manuscripts or portions of NT (~ 6,000 Greek)

2 Peter 1:16

For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty.

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The trials of Christ

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| 1. Annas | Mark 14:53-54 |
| 2. Caiaphas | Mark 14:55-65 |
| 3. Sanhedrin | Mark 15:1 |
| 4. Pilate | Mark 15:2-5 |
| 5. Herod | Luke 23:7-12 |
| 6. Pilate | Mark 15:6-15 |

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“...Yet it is strange that in the vast literature of the Trial, there is no theology of the trial. Why did the authorities bother to bring Jesus to trial? Why did they not resort to the typical (and much simpler) Biblical solution for troublesome people i.e. have Jesus unceremoniously killed? *What was the purpose of the trial?*” (emphasis mine)

Mark 14:48-49

And Jesus answered and said unto them, Are ye come out, as against a thief, with swords and with staves to take me?

I was daily with you in the temple teaching, and ye took me not: but the scriptures must be fulfilled.

Isaiah 53:7-8

He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth.

He was taken from prison and from judgment: and who shall declare his generation? ...

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- fulfil Scriptural prophecy about the Servant.

Mark 14:60-61

And the high priest stood up in the midst, and asked Jesus, saying, Answerest thou nothing? what is it which these witness against thee?

But he held his peace, and answered nothing.

Mark 15:3-5

And the chief priests accused him of many things: but he answered nothing.

And Pilate asked him again, saying, Answerest thou nothing? behold how many things they witness against thee.

But Jesus yet answered nothing:...

1 Peter 2:21-25

For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps: Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth: Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously: Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.

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- fulfil Scriptural prophecy about the Servant.
- reveal the perfection of the Son.

Mark 14:55-56

And the chief priests and all the council sought for witness against Jesus to put him to death; and found none.

For many bare false witness against him, but their witness agreed not together.

Mark 15:2-5

And Pilate asked him, Art thou the King of the Jews? And he answering said unto them, Thou sayest it.

And the chief priests accused him of many things: but he answered nothing.

And Pilate asked him again, saying, Answerest thou nothing? behold how many things they witness against thee.

But Jesus yet answered nothing; so that Pilate marvelled.

Mark 15:9-11

But Pilate answered them, saying, Will ye that I release unto you the King of the Jews?

For he knew that the chief priests had delivered him for envy. But the chief priests moved the people, that he should rather release Barabbas unto them.

Mark 15:9-11

And Pilate answered and said again unto them, What will ye then that I shall do unto him whom ye call the King of the Jews?

And they cried out again, Crucify him.

Then Pilate said unto them, Why, what evil hath he done?

Luke 23:13-22

And Pilate, when he had called together the chief priests and the rulers and the people, Said unto them, Ye have brought this man unto me, as one that perverteth the people: and, behold, I, having examined him before you, have found no fault in this man touching those things whereof ye accuse him: No, nor yet Herod: for I sent you to him; and, lo, nothing worthy of death is done unto him.

Luke 23:13-22

...I will therefore chastise him, and release him.

(For of necessity he must release one unto them at the feast.)

And they cried out all at once, saying, Away with this man, and release unto us Barabbas: (Who for a certain sedition made in the city, and for murder, was cast into prison.)

Luke 23:13-22

... Pilate therefore, willing to release Jesus, spake again to them.

But they cried, saying, Crucify him, crucify him.

And he said unto them the third time, Why, what evil hath he done? I have found no cause of death in him: I will therefore chastise him, and let him go.

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- illustrate the response of human rejection.

Human rejection in the trials of Christ

- Rejected by Chief Priests (14:53-65)
- Rejected by disciples (14:66-72)
- Rejected by Pilate (15:1-15)
- Rejected by Jewish people (15:1-15)

Mark 14:64-65

...And they all condemned him to be guilty of death. And some began to spit on him, and to cover his face, and to buffet him, and to say unto him, Prophecy: and the servants did strike him with the palms of their hands.

Mark 15:14-15

And they cried out the more exceedingly, Crucify him. And so Pilate, willing to content the people, released Barabbas unto them, and delivered Jesus, when he had scourged him, to be crucified.

Mark 14:61-62

Again the high priest asked him, and said unto him, Art thou the Christ, the Son of the Blessed? And Jesus said, I am: and ye shall see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven.

The trials of Christ

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- The trials of Christ fulfil Scriptural prophecy about the Servant.
- The trials of Christ reveal the perfection of the Son.
- The trials of Christ illustrate the response of human rejection.