

Although Jesus' trial lasted less than 18 hours, He was taken to six different hearings.

<p>JESUS BEFORE THE JEWISH AUTHORITIES</p>	<p>Preliminary hearing before Annas. (John 18:12-24)</p>	<p>Because the office of the high priest was for life, Annas was still the “official” high priest in the eyes of the Jews, even though the Romans had appointed his son-in-law (Caiaphas) as Annas’ successor. Annas still carried much weight among the Sanhedrin. (<i>Sanhedrin were ruling members among the Pharisees</i>).</p>
	<p>Hearing before Caiaphas. (Matthew 25:57-68)</p>	<p>Like the hearing before Annas, this hearing was conducted at night in secrecy. It was full of illegalities that made a mockery of justice.</p> <p>Rome gave partial freedom to the Jews as long as they were quiet and obedient. Earlier (John 11:49) Caiaphas suggested that Jesus be killed in order to stop His “<i>dividing disturbances</i>”; otherwise the Romans would discipline the Jews and bring further hardship upon their nation.</p>
	<p>Trial before the Sandhedrin. (Matthew 27:1-2)</p>	<p>Just after daybreak, 70 members of the Jewish council met to give their approval of the previous hearings to make them appear legal. The purpose of this trial was not to determine justice, but to justify their own fixed idea of Jesus’ guilt. The charge was “blasphemy” following Jesus’ claim of being the Son of God.</p>
<p>JESUS BEFORE THE ROMAN AUTHORITIES</p>	<p>First hearing before Pilate (Luke 2:1-5)</p>	<p>The Jewish religious leaders had condemned Jesus to death on religious grounds, but only the Roman government could grant the death penalty. So they took Jesus to Pilate (the Roman Governor) and accused him of treason and rebellion, crimes for which the Roman government gave the death penalty. Pilate saw at once that Jesus was innocent, but he was afraid about the uproar being caused by the religious leaders.</p>
	<p>Hearing before Herod (Luke 23:6-12)</p>	<p>Because Jesus’ home was in the region of Galilee, Pilate sent Jesus to Herod Antipas, the ruler of Galilee, who was in Jerusalem for the Passover celebration. Herod was eager to see Jesus do a miracle, but when Jesus remained silent Herod wanted nothing to do with him and sent him back to Pilate.</p>
	<p>Last hearing before Pilate (Luke 23:13-25)</p>	<p>Pilate didn’t like the religious leaders. He wasn’t interested in condemning Jesus because he knew Jesus was innocent. However, he knew that an uprising in his district might cost him his job. First he tried to compromise with the religious leaders by having Jesus beaten (an illegal action itself). But finally he gave in and handed Jesus over to be executed.</p>