

## Context

This is the night before Jesus was crucified, he allows Himself to be seized by a high powered aggressive deputation of religious leaders.

**Intro** Brian Clough, outspoken football manager of a past generation, known for being highly opinionated, said to the chairman of a football club that he managed – “If I want your opinion, I’ll give it to you”

Similar arrogance was displayed by the religious leaders at the so called trial of Jesus – they were certain they knew what should be done

**66** When day came, the assembly of the elders of the people gathered together, both chief priests and scribes. And they led him away to their council.

*Nb In the Jewish law the council was unable to sit by night so they convened at first light. However, they should also have been unable to pass sentence until the day after the trial. (It was illegal)*

*\*Note – it is never a good idea to ‘lead’ Jesus – He should lead us\**

**67** and they said, "If you are the Christ, tell us."

But he said to them, "If I tell you, you will not believe, **68** and if I ask you, you will not answer.

*Nb Christ (gk) Messiah (Jewish) – he was the long prophesied, all victorious Jewish king*

*The crowds had sang ‘blessed be the King’ as they welcomed Him into Jerusalem (19:38) (Jesus at no point however had himself said he was Messiah)*

*\*God will not answer proud questions\**

*\*Only ask God a question. if you are prepared to listen\**

**69** But from now on (Jesus said) the Son of Man shall be seated at the right hand of the power of God."

*nb Son of man Ambiguous title Jesus called himself, to stress his humanity; but OT also uses of Messiah (Daniel 7:13).*

*Cf Seated at God’s right hand see Psalm 110:1; Col 3:1; Hebrews 1:3),*

*Power of God (Rom 1:16; 1 Cor 1:4)*

*Receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you (Acts 1:8)*

*\*God is all powerful\**

**70** So they all said, "Are you the Son of God, then?" And he said to them, "You say that I am."

*Nb but he was even calling God his own Father, making Himself equal to God (John 5:18)*

**71** they said, "What further testimony do we need? We have heard it ourselves from his own lips."

*\*Be very careful - Never put words into Jesus mouth\**

**23: 1** Then the whole company of them arose and brought him before Pilate. **2** And they began to accuse him, saying, "We found this man misleading our nation and forbidding us to give tribute to Caesar, and saying that he himself is Christ, a King."

*Nb Whole council = Jewish Sanhedrin traditionally 70 persons (Nu10:16)*

*Pilate was the Roman governor of Judea, AD 26-36*

*? He opposes paying tax to Caesar = a lie: (Luke 20:25)*

*\*GRACE Jesus allows us to lie about Him – for now\**

*23:2 Beware accusing God wrongly*

**3** ..Pilate asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" And he answered him, "You have said so."

*Nb 'you' emphatic – an incredulous question*

*'King of the Jews' = A title put above Jesus at crucifixion (23:37,38)*

**4** Then Pilate said to the chief priests and the crowds, "I find no guilt in this man." **5** But they were urgent, saying, "He stirs up the people, teaching throughout all Judea, from Galilee even to this place."

*Nb Galilee was a joke - Can anything good come out of Nazareth (Galilee) (Jn 1:46)*

*Pilate prophetically unaware declared him 'not guilty' 'He who knew no sin was made to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God' (2 Cor 5:21)*

*\*JESUS - Jesus was not guilty – that is why he was able die for your sins\**

**6** When Pilate heard this, he asked whether the man was a Galilean. **7** And when he learned that he belonged to Herod's jurisdiction, he sent him over to Herod, who was himself in Jerusalem at that time.

*Nb Herod the Great ruled all Israel. Herod Antipas, one of his sons and ruled just Galilee BC4 – AD39*

**8** When Herod saw Jesus, he was very glad, for he had long desired to see him, because he had heard about him, and he was hoping to see some sign done by him. **9** So he questioned him at some length, but he made no answer.

*Nb Jesus led no defence of a prophecy re 'The Servant' (Isaiah 53:7-8,)*

*Cf He had said that 'No sign will be given' (11:29; 21:7)*

*'Beware the attraction of signs – they follow faith and don't precede it*

*??? Why did he not answer Herod but did Pilate? Out of respect for due process / God given authority???*

**10** The chief priests and the scribes stood by, vehemently accusing him. **11** And Herod with his soldiers treated him with contempt and mocked him.

*Nb Jesus said 'as they persecute me they will persecute you' (John 15:20)*

Then, arraying him in splendid clothing, he sent him back to Pilate. **12** And Herod and Pilate became friends with each other that very day, for before this they had been at enmity with each other.

*Nb Herod made it easy for Pilate by making light of Jesus' claims*

*\*Beware finding common cause with those who seek to ignore King Jesus\**

**MP** *Jesus will not answer questions from a closed mind*

**KV** *If I tell you, you will not believe, and if I ask you, you will not answer (67,68)*

## Conclusion

1] Unlike Brian Clough/the religious leaders - Humble yourself before Jesus as you put Him 'on trial'. (The arrogant receive nothing)

2] Be open minded to the answers Jesus may give (e.g. 'speaking of the son of man / himself he said 'they will kill him and on the third day, he will rise')

*'My thoughts are not your thoughts neither are your ways my ways', declares the Lord (Is 55:8)*