

Luke 22:66

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And as soon as it was day, the elders of the people and the chief priests and the scribes came together, and led him into their council, saying,

Analysis

And as soon as it was day, the elders of the people and the chief priests and the scribes came together, and led him into their council, saying, Dawn brings the formal Sanhedrin trial. The phrase *kai hōs egeneto hēmera* (καὶ ὡς ἐγένετο ἡμέρα, 'and as it became day') marks legal proceedings—Jewish law required daylight trials. The assembly *to presbyterion tou laou archiereis te kai grammateis* (τὸ πρεσβυτέριον τοῦ λαοῦ ἀρχιερεῖς τε καὶ γραμματεῖς, 'the council of elders, both chief priests and scribes') represents the Sanhedrin's three groups: elders (tribal leaders), chief priests (Sadducees), and scribes (Pharisees). They *synēchthēsan* (συνήχθησαν, 'gathered together')—formal convening.

The phrase *anēgagon auton eis to synedrion autōn* (ἀνήγαγον αὐτὸν εἰς τὸ συνέδριον αὐτῶν, 'they led him into their council') shows Jesus brought before Israel's highest court. The *synedrion* (συνέδριον, Sanhedrin) had 71 members and authority over religious matters. This 'trial' was predetermined—they already decided to kill Jesus (v. 2), now seeking legal justification. The predawn proceedings with Annas and Caiaphas (John 18:13-24) were illegal reconnaissance; this dawn gathering provides legal veneer for a lynching.

Historical Context

The Sanhedrin met in the Hall of Hewn Stone in the Temple complex. Jewish law (Mishnah tractate Sanhedrin) prohibited capital trials at night, on feast days, or

with predetermined verdict. They violated all three. The trial began at dawn (probably 6-7 AM) to finish before Passover lamb sacrifice (afternoon). The chief priests were Sadducees who controlled Temple; scribes were mainly Pharisees who interpreted law. Their cooperation against Jesus shows how seriously they took His threat to their power structures. Though enemies, Pharisees and Sadducees united against Christ.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. Why did religious leaders who claimed devotion to law violate it to condemn Jesus?
2. What does the cooperation between typically antagonistic groups (Pharisees, Sadducees) reveal about opposition to Christ?
3. How does the legal veneer over predetermined verdict demonstrate religious hypocrisy?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	ώς	έγένετο	ἡμέρα	συνήχθη	τὸ	πρεσβυτέριον
And	as soon as	it was	day	came together	G3588	the elders
G2532	G5613	G1096	G2250	G4863		G4244
τοῦ	λαοῦ	ἀρχιερεῖς	τε	καὶ	γραμματεῖς	καὶ
G3588	of the people	the chief priests	and	And	the scribes	And
G2992		G749	G5037	G2532	G1122	G2532
ἀνήγαγον	αὐτὸν	εἰς	τὸ	συνέδριον	έαυτῶν,	λέγοντες
led	him	into	G3588	council	their	saying
G321	G846	G1519		G4892	G1438	G3004

Additional Cross-References

Mark 15:1 (Parallel theme): And straightway in the morning the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council, and bound Jesus, and carried him away, and delivered him to Pilate.

Matthew 27:1 (Parallel theme): When the morning was come, all the chief priests and elders of the people took counsel against Jesus to put him to death:

Acts 22:5 (Parallel theme): As also the high priest doth bear me witness, and all the estate of the elders: from whom also I received letters unto the brethren, and went to Damascus, to bring them which were there bound unto Jerusalem, for to be punished.

Matthew 5:22 (Parallel theme): But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire.

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