

# Mark 14:55

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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

## Analysis

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**The chief priests and all the council sought for witness against Jesus** (έζήτουν κατὰ τοῦ Ἰησοῦ μαρτυρίαν, ezētoun kata tou Iēsou martyrian)—The verb ζητέω (zēteō) reveals their predetermined agenda: they were hunting for testimony, not truth. The preposition κατά (kata, 'against') shows hostile intent. **To put him to death** (εἰς τὸ θανατῶσαι αὐτόν, eis to thanatōsai auton)—the purpose clause exposes this as a show trial with a predetermined verdict.

**And found none** (καὶ οὐχ εὗρισκον, kai ouch heuriskon)—Despite the entire religious establishment's resources, they could not find legitimate charges. Deuteronomy 17:6 required two or three witnesses for capital punishment, but the Sanhedrin couldn't even manufacture convincing false testimony. The Lamb of God stood spotless even before His enemies' scrutiny, fulfilling Isaiah 53:9: 'he had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth.'

## Historical Context

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Jewish law (as codified in the Mishnah tractate Sanhedrin, reflecting first-century practice) required capital trials to begin during daytime, prohibited night sessions, and mandated acquittal if witnesses disagreed. This trial violated multiple procedural safeguards. The Sanhedrin needed Roman approval for executions (John 18:31), so they sought a charge that would convince Pilate, not just satisfy Jewish law.

## Related Passages

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**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

## Study Questions

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1. How does the Sanhedrin's failure to find true charges testify to Jesus's sinless perfection?
2. What does it reveal about human justice systems when religious leaders must fabricate evidence?
3. How should Christians respond when facing false accusations, following Christ's example here?

## Interlinear Text

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οἱ δὲ ἀρχιερεῖς καὶ ὅλον τὸ συνέδριον ἐζήτουν  
G3588 And the chief priests and all G3588 the council sought  
G1161 G749 G2532 G3650 G4892 G2212

κατὰ τοῦ Ἰησοῦ μαρτυρίαν εἰς τὸ θανατῶσαι αὐτόν  
against G3588 Jesus for witness to G3588 put G2596 G2424 G3141 G1519 G2289 G846

καὶ οὐχ εὗρισκον  
and none found  
G2532 G3756 G2147

## Additional Cross-References

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**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.

