



Series: Good Friday 2025
Passage: John 18:1-40
Title: The Six Illegal Trials of Jesus
Speaker: David Menard 4/18/2025

Discussion Starter – When have you witnessed or experienced something unfair, and what emotions did it stir up in you? How does it impact your faith to know that Jesus, completely innocent, endured the most unjust trials in human history—and did so willingly?

Read John 18:1–11

- 1) Why did Jesus willingly present Himself to the soldiers, even knowing what was ahead?
- 2) What do the soldiers' reaction to Jesus' words "I am He" reveal about His divine nature?
- 3) Why do you think Jesus protected His disciples from being arrested too? What does this say about His heart for His people?

Read John 18:12–27

- 1) Why was Jesus taken to Annas first, even though Caiaphas was the high priest? What does this reveal about the corruption behind His arrest?
- 2) How does Peter's denial contrast with Jesus' courage in this scene? What pressure points might cause us to distance ourselves from Jesus today?
- 3) What role does fear play in both Peter's actions and our own spiritual compromise?

Read John 18:28–40

- 1) Why wouldn't the religious leaders enter Pilate's headquarters? What does this ironic moment show us about empty religion and spiritual blindness?
- 2) What were the new charges brought before Pilate, and how did they differ from the ones used in the religious trial? What does this say about the leaders' motives?
- 3) Why does Pilate declare Jesus innocent multiple times, yet still hand Him over? What warning does Pilate's indecision offer to those who know what is right but don't act on it?

Personal Reflection

- 1) Pilate asked Jesus, "What is truth?" How would you answer that question today?
- 2) How does Jesus' silent submission in the face of injustice speak to your heart?
- 3) Jesus was condemned so that we could go free—like Barabbas. In what ways do we identify with Barabbas in this story?
- 4) How should this passage reshape the way we view our sin, our Savior, and our surrender?