

November 22, 2009

"The Day Jesus Held Court"

Intro:

- Objects in mirror are closer than they appear

The Charge

The Judge is asking the questions

The Witnesses

- Annas

The man

Guilt Exposed

Jesus exposed **religious idolatry** with Annas on the stand

John 5:39 "You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me, 40 yet you refuse to come to me that you may have life"

Matthew 23:1-7 "Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples, 2 "The scribes and the Pharisees sit on Moses' seat, 3 so practice and observe whatever they tell you — but not what they do. For they preach, but do not practice. 4 They tie up heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on people's shoulders, but they themselves are not willing to move them with their finger. 5 They do all their deeds to be seen by others. For they make their phylacteries broad and their fringes long, 6 and they love the place of honor at feasts and the best seats in the synagogues 7 and greetings in the marketplaces and being called rabbi by others"

Mt. 23:23-24 "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cumin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness. These you ought to have done, without neglecting the others. 24 You blind guides, straining out a gnat and swallowing a camel!"

Our Guilt

"An idol is something that we look to for things that only God can give. Idolatry functions widely inside religious communities when doctrinal truth is elevated to the position of a false god. This occurs when people rely on the rightness of their doctrine for their standing with God rather than on God himself and his grace. It is a subtle but deadly mistake. The sign that you have slipped into this form of self-justification is that you become what the book of Proverbs calls a 'scoffer.' Scoffers always show contempt and disdain for opponents rather than graciousness. This is a sign that they do not see themselves as sinners saved by grace. Instead, their trust is in the rightness of their views makes them feel superior"

—**Timothy Keller**, *Counterfeit Gods*, p. 131

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Religious idolatry makes us ignore the life that Christ is (John 14:6)

- Pilate

The man

Guilt Exposed

Jesus exposed **cultural idolatry** with Pilate on the stand.

Our Guilt

The control we desire

Today the need for transcendence and meaning has detached itself from anything more important than the individual self and its freedom to be what it chooses. Among younger people, the older flag-waving 'America first' mind-set is out. Now life is about creating a self through the maximization of individual freedom from the constraints of community" **-Timothy Keller**, *Counterfeit Gods*, p. 129-130

The Verdict

- The King of Truth
- Captives set free

Barabbas...the robber

Matthew 27:21-25

"As hardened as he was, Barabbas must have grown faint. He may have stared at the palms of his hands in growing horror of the awaiting agony. He had seen crucifixions. He knew of their interminable agony. He heard the sound of the key in the lock, felt even greater terror, and ... suddenly he was released from his chains and told he was free! He was probably in a daze when he emerged into the sunlight. Slowly the truth unfolded: Jesus Christ was dying in his place" **-Kent Hughes, John, p. 427**

2 Corinthians 5:21 "For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God"

1 Peter 2:24 "He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed"