When we look at the gospel recordings of Jesus' trial, we see injustice next to justice. Since each gospel (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John) record Jesus' trial from different witnesses, I've combined them to hopefully provide a clearer, more dimensional account. I pray that I can make this straightforward. I'm only focusing on the trial events leading to Jesus being handed over to be crucified to make details of this recorded event hopefully clearer. There are other events that go on that we'll discuss in Sunday school. Trying to give you a picture, though excerpts of combined scripture of the same event (i.e. the trial of Jesus) without taking away from the purity of the scripture. I pray I honored the scriptures while explaining. Please let me know if you have any questions. I'm here. Praying for both of us. :)

Jesus Arrested - Thursday night
before Jesus went to the cross on Friday

Jesus was in the Garden of Gethsemane with His eleven apostles. The Jewish leaders paid Judas, His 12th apostle, to lead them to Jesus when He was alone and at night. All 4 gospels record that Jesus knew Judas would betray Him. Jesus makes sure the chief priests and elders (i.e. the Jewish leaders) only take Him so that His apostles are not caught up in the trial. Jesus is the only One Who will go to the cross to pay for our sin's debt. He is God and God is sinless. They are able to take Jesus because "His time had come" (the time within God's plan) as well as fulfilling what scripture foretold would happen. They take Jesus to the Sanhedrin (this was basically the Jewish religious authorities of this time period - the Jewish court.). Their law forbid capital punishment trials at night and they break their own law. **It's Thursday night.** Jesus is taken from the garden and the apostles scatter away at this point. The Jewish leaders just take Jesus - no one else.

Jesus Before the Sanhedrin

The detachment *of* troops and the captain and the officers of the Jews arrest Jesus and bind (tying Jesus with ropes to prevent Him from escaping) Him. They led Jesus away **to Annas first**, for he was the father-in-law of Caiaphas who was high priest that year. Annas, who is part of the Jewish leaders, asks Jesus about His disciples and His doctrine. Jesus answered him, “I spoke openly to the world. I always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where the Jews always meet, and in secret I have said nothing. Why do you ask Me? Ask those who have heard Me what I said to them. Indeed they know what I said.” (Annas could not find the charge against Jesus concerning His disciples nor His doctrine).

Then **Annas sent Him bound to Caiaphas** the high priest. The chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin were looking for evidence against Jesus so that they could put him to death, but they did not find any. Many testified falsely against him, but their statements did not agree. Then some stood up and gave this false testimony against him: “We heard him say, ‘I will destroy this temple made with human hands and in three days will build another, not made with hands.’” Yet even then their testimony did not agree. So Caiaphas, the high priest, stood up before them and asked Jesus, “Are you not going to answer? What is this testimony that these men are bringing against you?” But Jesus remained silent and gave no answer. The high priest continued to question Jesus to answer him under oath by the living God if He was the Messiah, the Son of God. Jesus answered it was as the high priest said and that from that point he would see the “Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven.” Caiaphas knew that Jesus was declaring Divine authority and Jesus was saying that His accusers would see this happen. Caiaphas tore his clothes (outward Jewish sign of inward intense emotion) and said, “He has spoken blasphemy! Why do we need any more witnesses? Look, now you have heard the blasphemy . What do you think?” “He is worthy of death,” the other Jewish leaders answered. They all condemned him as worthy of death.

It is now the early hours of Friday morning. All the chief priests and the elders of the people made their plans how to have Jesus executed. They, as the Jews, had agreed upon a charge. Their law, however, would not allow them to crucify Jesus and that was what they wanted (and what scripture said would happen). They had to have Rome condemn Jesus. They led him away and handed him over to Pontius Pilate (referred to sometimes as “Pilate”. He was the Roman governor.

Jesus Before Pilate

Then the whole multitude of Jewish leaders arose and led Jesus to Pilate. Pilate then went out to them and said, “What accusation do you bring against this Man?” They answered and said to him, “If He were not an evildoer, we would not have delivered Him up to you.” Then Pilate said to them, “You take Him and judge Him according to your law.” Therefore the Jews said to Pilate, “It is not lawful for us to put anyone to death,” They first tried to approach Pilate with a charge that would put Jesus in trouble with Roman law and Caesar (the emperor). They accused Jesus before Pilate saying, “We found this fellow perverting the nation, and forbidding to pay taxes to Caesar, saying that He Himself is Christ, a King.” (What they are basically saying is that Jesus was trying to make Himself higher than the emperor thinking that Pilate would convict Jesus of death for that charge). Pilate was a judge and he first questioned Jesus. Pilate will find Jesus “not guilty” numerous times and will state that.

Pilate asked Jesus, “Are You the King of the Jews?” He answered him and said, “*It is as* you say.” So Pilate said to the chief priests and the crowd, “I find no fault in this Man.” So the Jewish leaders come at it from a different angle and say “He stirs up the people, teaching throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee to this place.”

Pilate sends Jesus to Herod

When Pilate heard of Galilee, he asked if the Man were a Galilean. And as soon as he knew that Jesus belonged to Herod’s jurisdiction, he sent Him to Herod, who was also in Jerusalem at that time. Herod questioned Him with many words, but Jesus answered him nothing. The chief priests and scribes stood and vehemently accused Him. Herod, with his men of war, treated Jesus with contempt and mocked *Him,* arrayed Him in a gorgeous robe, and sent Him back to Pilate.

Herod sends Jesus back to Pilate

Then Pilate, when he had called together the chief priests, the rulers, and the people, said to them, “You have brought this Man to me, as one who misleads the people. And indeed, having examined Him in your presence, I have found no fault in this Man concerning those things of which you accuse Him; no, neither did Herod, for I sent you back to him; and indeed nothing deserving of death has been done by Him.
Then Pilate entered the Praetorium again, called Jesus, and said to Him, “Are You the King of the Jews?” Jesus answered him, “Are you speaking for yourself about this, or did others tell you this concerning Me?” Pilate answered, “Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have delivered You to me. What have You done?” Jesus answered, “My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here.” Pilate therefore said to Him, “Are You a king then?” Jesus answered, “You say *rightly* that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice.” Pilate said to Him, “What is truth?” And when he had said this, he went out again to the Jews, and said to them, “I find no fault in Him at all.

Taking the Place of Barabbas

Now it was the governor's custom at the festival to release a prisoner chosen by the crowd. The crowd came up and asked Pilate to do for them what he usually did. At that time they had a well-known prisoner whose name was Barabbas. Barabbas was in prison with the insurrectionists who had committed murder in the uprising. So when the crowd had gathered, Pilate asked them, "Which one do you want me to release to you: Barabbas, or Jesus who is called the Messiah?" For Pilate knew it was out of self-interest that they had handed Jesus over to him. Pilate asked the crowds, "Do you want me to release to you the king of the Jews?" But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have Pilate release Barabbas instead.12 "What shall I do, then, with the one you call the king of the Jews?" Pilate asked them. They all answered, "Crucify him!" "Why? "Why, what evil has He done? I have found no reason for death in Him. I will therefore chastise Him and let Him go."said Pilate. But they shouted all the louder, "Crucify him!" When Pilate saw that he was getting nowhere, but that instead an uproar was starting, he took water and washed his hands in front of the crowd. "I am innocent of this man's blood," he said. "It is your responsibility!" All the people answered, "His blood is on us and on our children!" Then he released Barabbas to them.

Jesus flogged

Matthew's gospel records that after Barrabas was released, Pilate, the Roman governor, had Jesus flogged (a Roman flogging was a sever beating that many times will end in death). The soldiers who flogged Jesus mocked him by pressing a crown of thorns on His head and a purple "king" robe around Him. Then Pilate presented Jesus beaten and mocked to the crowds and said, ""Behold, I am bringing Him out to you, that you may know that I find no fault in Him." Behold the Man!".

Pilate's Decision

Therefore, when the chief priests and officers saw Him, they cried out, saying, "Crucify *Him,* crucify Him*!*" Pilate said to them, "You take Him and crucify *Him,* for I find no fault in Him." The Jewish leaders answered him, "We have a law, and according to our law He ought to die, because He made Himself the Son of God." (This is the charge of blasphemy)

Therefore, when Pilate heard that saying (where Jesus said He was the Son of God), he was the more afraid, and went again into the Praetorium, and said to Jesus, "Where are You from?" But Jesus gave him no answer. Then Pilate said to Him, "Are You not speaking to me? Do You not know that I have power to crucify You, and power to release You?" Jesus answered, "You could have no power at all against Me unless it had been given you from above. Therefore the one who delivered Me to you has the greater sin."

From then on Pilate sought to release Jesus, but the Jews cried out, saying, "If you let this Man go, you are not Caesar's friend. Whoever makes himself a king speaks against Caesar." When Pilate therefore heard that saying and that an uproar was beginning, he brought Jesus out and sat down in the judgment seat in a place that is called *The* Pavement, but in Hebrew, Gabbatha. Now it was the Preparation Day of the Passover, and about the sixth hour (this timing is significant and we will discuss this in class). And Pilate said to the Jews, "Behold your King!" But they cried out, "Away with *Him,* away with *Him!* Crucify Him!" Pilate said to them, "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but Caesar!" Then he delivered Him to them to be crucified. Then they took Jesus and led *Him* away and delivered Jesus to their will for Him to be crucified.