

VENGEFUL ANNAS

JOHN 18:12-24

How did you see God working in your life this week? (Romans 1:11, 12)

BACKGROUND—”Annas was a Jewish-appointed high priest. (6-15 AD) Even after his removal he retained great power and prestige as senior ex-high priest. Four of his sons and his son-in-law held the office of high priest. The high priest’s office was marked by bribery and corruption, and Annas was a notorious character,” William Barclay, John, page 225.

WAS THE HUMAN “POWER” BEHIND THE SCENE IN THE JEWISH HIERARCHY. Jesus was a threat to the high priest’s power. (**John 18:12, 13, fn 18:12, 13, John 11:45-57, fn 11:45-53, Acts 3:2, fn 3:2{1st}**, **Acts 4:6, fn 4:6**) *What do you have to give up to follow Jesus? Is it prestige or power or a way of life? Jesus said that He came to give life abundantly. What and why is your choice?*

EXTORTED MONEY FROM THE TEMPLE IN THE COURT OF GENTILES. Jesus cleared the high priest’s oppressive bazaars twice from Jerusalem’s temple. “There is not one square inch of the creation about which Jesus Christ does not cry out, ‘This is mine! This belongs to me!’” Abraham Kuyper (former Dutch Prime Minister) Annas wanted Jesus dead. (**John 18:13-18, fn 18:13, John 2:13-19, fn 2:14-16, fn 2:17, Luke 19:45-48, fn 19:47, John 19:5, 6**) *Of what part of your life is Jesus not Lord over? How can that be changed?*

VIOLATED PRINCIPLES OF JEWISH JUSTICE. The examination before Annas was a mockery of justice. “Our true law does not inflict the penalty of death upon a sinner by his own confession.” Maimonides (medieval Jewish scholar) “Annas violated the principles of Jewish justice when he questioned Jesus.” William Barclay, John, page 227. Jesus said to Annas, “Why question me?” Notice the illegality in **John 18:19 & 22**. (**John 18:19-24, fn 18:19ff, fn 18:22-27, Acts 23:1-5, fn 23:2-5, Isaiah 53:8, John 19:11, fn 19:11**) *What is the significance for you of the unfairness of the inquisition?*

Check up—Are you praying with your spouse and your family? Group—Pray for personal requests and bond together by fellowshipping together.