

# The 18 Illegal Things the Religious Leaders Did During Jesus' Trial According to Jewish Law

1. Trials were not permitted at night. (Jesus was tried during the night after His arrest.)
2. Capital cases could not be tried during major feast periods such as Passover.
3. A verdict in a capital case could not be reached the same day as the trial.
4. Trials were required to begin with arguments for the defense before the prosecution.
5. Judges were not permitted to act as accusers.
6. False witnesses were presented against Jesus.
7. Witness testimony in capital cases had to agree exactly; conflicting testimony should dismiss the case.
8. The accused could not be forced to testify against himself.
9. The High Priest tore his garments during the proceedings, which violated priestly law.
10. Trials were required to occur in the Temple court, not in a private residence.
11. The Sanhedrin rushed the proceedings instead of allowing proper deliberation.
12. Jesus was struck and abused before any legal verdict was delivered.
13. The charge was changed when presented to Roman authorities (from blasphemy to political rebellion).
14. The verdict appeared predetermined before proper examination.
15. Jesus was not provided a formal defense.
16. Political pressure was used to force the Roman governor to approve execution.
17. The religious leaders stirred and manipulated the crowd to demand crucifixion.
18. The execution occurred through Roman crucifixion rather than Jewish legal sentencing.

## Where You Can Verify These Claims

Readers are encouraged to study the historical and legal background of the trial of Jesus themselves.

The following sources contain the Jewish legal standards and historical discussions often used when examining the legality of the proceedings.

### Primary Jewish Legal Sources:

- Mishnah – Tractate Sanhedrin (especially chapters 4–5)
- Babylonian Talmud – Sanhedrin discussions on capital trials

### Biblical Gospel Accounts of the Trial:

- Matthew 26–27

- Mark 14–15
- Luke 22–23
- John 18–19

Historical and Scholarly Studies:

- Alfred Edersheim – 'The Life and Times of Jesus the Messiah'
- Simon Greenleaf – 'The Testimony of the Evangelists'
- Josh McDowell – 'The New Evidence That Demands a Verdict'
- A.N. Sherwin-White – Roman Law in the New Testament

By comparing the Gospel narratives with the Jewish legal procedures recorded in the Mishnah and later rabbinic writings,

many scholars have concluded that numerous irregularities occurred during the trial proceedings.