



## **NEWSCAST 18. THE ARREST**

.... Our news broadcast opens on the morning following the arrest of Jesus and the night trial before the Sanhedrin. Prior to the arrest, Jesus had had his last gathering with his disciples in an upper room in Jerusalem. They had celebrated their Passover meal together, in the course of which Jesus had introduced a new understanding of their meal, interpreting it in terms of his coming death which would bring a redemption even greater than that of the original Exodus from Egypt.

Jesus was arraigned before the Sanhedrin on purely religious charges. But it was difficult to find an accusation that would stick. Jesus' teaching had been hostile to the temple. However, he had never actually said that he would be the agent of its destruction. The charges culminated with Caiaphas asking Jesus whether or not he was the Messiah. All the gospels agree that while Jesus accepted the title, he found it misleading. Jesus therefore referred to himself in different terms, using the language of the Book of Daniel which refers to the persecuted servant of God who will in future be vindicated and raised to authority by God.

It was most likely this statement rather than the claim to be Messiah which constituted blasphemy in the eyes of the Sanhedrin. But it was the title of Messiah which had political as well as religious implications and which would constitute the grounds for condemnation by Pontius Pilate, the Roman Governor.

### **Biblical references:**

**Matthew Chapter 26 v.1 — Chapter 27 v.10;**

**Mark Chapter 14;**

**Luke Chapter 22;**  
**Mark Chapter 13 v.1 -2.**

