

# A KANGAROO COURT

By  
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Webster defines a “Kangaroo Court” in the following way: “*An irresponsible, unauthorized, or irregular tribunal, or one in which the principles of law and justice are disregarded or perverted.*” Never was this definition so vividly played out as with the trial of our Lord and Savior, Jesus, the Christ.

You see, it was not justice that the Jewish elite was after, but rather justification for a decision that they had reached on an earlier occasion (cf. **John 11:47-53**). The power broking Jews were going to put Jesus to death! Whatsoever had to be done was going to be done! They had had enough of the famous preacher from Galilee.

Noted below are some of the many ways in which the prejudicial Jews violated their own legal system in their frenzy to execute the Son of God.

1. To prevent judgment from being clouded via fatigue, it was deemed that capital cases be tried in the daytime (***Mishnah, Sanhedrin 4.1***). Jesus was tried and found guilty at night (**Matthew 26:57-27:1**).
2. In the Jewish legal system, the judges were to make every attempt to exonerate the accused (***ibid 4.1, 4.5, 5.4***). This was not done during Jesus’ trial. In fact, the very opposite was true (**Matthew 26:59**).
3. A man could not be found guilty and sentenced in the same day (***ibid 4.1, 5:5***). Jesus was tried and sentenced on the same day (**Matthew 26:65-27:1**).
4. The high priest was not to voice his opinion concerning the case, since his voice had the ability to sway the decision of the court (***ibid 4.2***). In the trial of the Christ, the high priest was not silent, but was, in fact, antagonistic towards Jesus (**Matthew 26:65-66**).
5. According to the Jewish legal system, a prisoner was not to be tried at the house of the high priest (***ibid 11.2***). Jesus faced his accusers in the palace of Caiaphas, who was the high priest (**Matthew 26:57-58**).
6. Per the Jewish legal system, trials were not to be held on feast days (***ibid 4.1***). Jesus was tried on a feast day (**Matthew 26:17**).
7. Per the Law, bearing false witness against a man was a sin (**Exodus 20:16; cf. Deuteronomy 19:15-21**). Flagrant and false witnesses were used to testify against the Son of God (**Matthew 26:59-60**).

What a miscarriage of justice, but that’s what will always happen when one seeks to elevate his own will above that of God’s.

Those power-broking Jews of the first century who comprised the “religious elite” have a contemporary counterpart today. Sadly, many are the “modern day Jews” in our brotherhood who, despite their claims, really do not like what Jesus has to say. They really do not like the restrictions He places upon them and their work. As one looks at so many “churches of Christ” (so called), it is just a plain and pitiful fact that they are infested by professional, self-willed, proud preachers and filled with those kinds of shepherds discussed in Ezekiel 34. These “power brokers” think the church belongs to them and all too often they seek to silence Jesus by any means necessary, while at the same time seeking vigorously to keep the esteem of the masses. The Jews of the first century could not do so. Heard of the Sanhedrin lately? The unrepentant turncoats of this epoch will not get away with it either (**Romans 2:5-8**), and what’s more is that their punishment will be just and right. The Lord’s court will not reek of Kangaroo.