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:22 **When He had said this, one of the officers** [one of the Temple guards] **standing nearby struck Jesus,** [slapped Jesus across the face], **saying, “Is that the way You answer the high priest?”** One of the temple guards slapped Jesus, a sharp blow with the flat of the hand. No charge had been made; no sentence had been passed. Under Roman law an accused was presumed to be innocent unless and until he was proven guilty. Yet Jesus was struck.

Remember clear back to 5:18 where the Jews were seeking to kill Jesus because He was ‘breaking the Sabbath’ (their rules) and also ‘calling God His own Father’, making Himself equal with God (which was true; He was equal with His Father!). That was two years earlier than Jn. 18. Then recently, in 11:49-53, we see again the sentence had already been determined. Even Pilate recognized their desire to kill Jesus was motivated by envy (Mt. 27:18).

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Looking at this first of 6 ‘trials’, this one before the former high priest, Annas wanted Jesus to incriminate Himself. All Jesus did was refer back to the thousands of witnesses He had spoken to through His three years of ministry. “There are many witnesses; ask them.” The only response was a slap in the face and sending the still-bound Jesus to Caīaphas, the current high priest.

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## NOTES

:24 An unlikely coalition of Pharisees (mostly scribes and lay teachers), Sadducees (aristocratic chief priests), and Zealots (underground revolutionaries).

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**Read :12-18.**

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NLT 15 Simon Peter followed Jesus, as did another of the disciples. That other disciple was acquainted with the high priest, so he was allowed to enter the high priest's courtyard with Jesus. 16 Peter had to stay outside the gate. Then the disciple who knew the high priest spoke to the woman watching at the gate, and she let Peter in. 17 The woman asked Peter, "You're not one of that man's disciples, are you?" "No," he said, "I am not." 18 Because it was cold, the household servants and the guards had made a charcoal fire. They stood around it, warming themselves, and Peter stood with them, warming himself. 19 Inside, the high priest began asking Jesus about his followers and what he had been teaching them. 20 Jesus replied, "Everyone knows what I teach. I have preached regularly in the synagogues and the Temple, where the people gather. I have not spoken in secret. 21 Why are you asking me this question? Ask those who heard me. They know what I said." 22 Then one of the Temple guards standing nearby slapped Jesus across the face. "Is that the way to answer the high priest?" he demanded. 23 Jesus replied, "If I said anything wrong, you must prove it. But if I'm speaking the truth, why are you beating me?" 24 Then Annas bound Jesus and sent him to Caiaphas, the high priest. 25 Meanwhile, as Simon Peter was standing by the fire warming himself, they asked him again, "You're not one of his disciples, are you?" He denied it, saying, "No, I am not." 26 But one of the household slaves of the high priest, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, asked, "Didn't I see you out there in the olive grove with Jesus?" 27 Again Peter denied it. And immediately a rooster crowed.

JBP 15 Behind Jesus followed Simon Peter, and one other disciple who was known personally to the High Priest. He went in with Jesus into the High Priest's courtyard, but Peter was left standing at the door outside. So this other disciple, who was acquainted with the High Priest, went out and spoke to the doorkeeper, and brought Peter inside. The young woman at the door remarked to Peter, “Are you one of this man’s disciples, too?” “No, I am not,” retorted Peter. <sup>18</sup> In the courtyard, the servants and officers stood around a charcoal fire which they had made, for it was cold. They were warming themselves, and Peter stood there with them, keeping himself warm. <sup>19</sup> Meanwhile the High Priest interrogated Jesus about his disciples and about his own teaching. <sup>20-21</sup> “I have always spoken quite openly to the world,” replied Jesus. “I have always taught in the synagogue or in the Temple where all the Jews meet together, and I have said nothing in secret. Why do you question me? Why not question those who have heard me about what I said to them? Obviously they are the ones who know what I actually said.” <sup>22</sup> As he said this, one of those present, an officer, slapped Jesus with his open hand, remarking, “Is that the way for you to answer the High Priest?” <sup>23</sup> “If I have said anything wrong,” Jesus said to him, “you must give evidence about it, but if what I said was true, why do you strike me?” <sup>24</sup> Then Annas sent him, with his hands still tied, to the High Priest Caiaphas. <sup>25</sup> In the meantime Simon Peter was still standing, keeping himself warm. Some of them said to him, “Surely you too are one of his disciples, aren't you?” And he denied it and said, “No, I am not.” <sup>26</sup> Then one of the High Priest's servants, a relation of the man (Malchus) whose ear Peter had cut off, remarked, “Didn't I see you in the garden with him?” <sup>27</sup> And again Peter denied it. And immediately the cock crew.