



ALLEGATIONS AGAINST JESUS

1. Introduction

- The Pharisees , Scribes, Sadducees and Herodians accused Jesus of the following
- This lead to His death

2. Dispute about His Relation with God the Father

- **1) They objected to His use of the title “Son of God” for Himself.**
The Pharisees and scribes knew their theology well. When Jesus called God His Father, they knew what He meant was being of the same nature as God; i.e., equal with God, or God Himself:
- Jhn 5:17-18
- John 1:17-47. These verses reveal the ultimate reason Jesus confronted the Jews’ religious hypocrisy, i.e., the opportunity to declare who He was. This section is Christ’s own personal statement of His deity. As such, it is one of the greatest Christological discourses in Scripture. Herein Jesus makes 5 claims to equality to God:
 - 1) He is equal with God in His person (vv. 17,18);
 - 2) He is equal with God in His works (vv. 19, 20);
 - 3) He is equal with God in His power and sovereignty (v. 21);
 - 4) He is equal with God in His judgment (v. 22); and
 - 5) He is equal with God in His honor (v. 23).396
- **2) They also objected to His using the title “Messiah” or “Christ.”**
Again, they knew their theology and rightly understood that by using this title Jesus was claiming Himself to be the promised heir of David, who will sit on David’s throne and rule for eternity.
- Another Messianic title that has been used for Jesus is “the Son of David.” It has been used 15 times in the 3 Synoptic gospels. Although Jesus Himself never used this title for Himself, the Pharisees and the scribes objected to other people using it for Him. During the triumphal entry, the crowd shouted “Hosanna to the Son of David; blessed is He who comes in the Name of the Lord”- Mt 21:9
- **3) The Pharisees and scribes objected to His claim of supremacy over and existence before Abraham.** This was another occasion when they picked up stones to stone Him:
- “Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day; and he saw it, and was glad.” The Jews therefore said to Him, “You are not yet fifty years old, and have You seen Abraham?” Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was born, I AM.” Therefore they picked up stones to throw at Him; but Jesus hid Himself, and went out of the temple (John 8:56-59).

- **4) They objected to Jesus' claim to have authority to forgive sins.** Again, the scribes and the Pharisees knew their theology well. They rightly understood that only God, against Whom every sin has been committed, has the right to forgive sins and anyone who claims to have that right, or who tries to exercise that right, makes himself equal with God.
- In the incident of the healing of the paralytic man, instead of telling him to rise up and walk, Jesus told him, "Your sins are forgiven you." At this the scribes and the Pharisees began murmuring, "Who is this who speaks blasphemies? Who can forgive sins, but God alone?" And Jesus' response was, "But in order that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins" – Mt 9:6; Mk 2:7-10; Lk5:21-24
- **5) Because Jesus kept asserting His deity and making claims about His being equal to God the Father, the scribes and the Pharisees demanded that He provide them some proofs, some miraculous signs that would undoubtedly show that He was really who He was claiming Himself to be: God incarnate.**
- Then some of the scribes and Pharisees answered Him, saying, "Teacher, we want to see a sign from you." But He answered and said to them, "An evil and adulterous generation craves for a sign; and yet no sign shall be given to it but the sign of Jonah, the prophet" – Mt 12:38-39; Mt 6:4; Mk 8:11-12; Lk11:29

3. Dispute about His Relationship with Man

- **1) He became a friend of "sinners."**
- "Now all the tax-gatherers and the sinners were coming near Him to listen to Him. And both the Pharisees and the scribes began to grumble, saying, 'This man receives sinners and eats with them'" – Lk 15:1-2
- This is where Jesus gave them various parables: the lost sheep, the lost coin, and the lost (prodigal) son, and spoke about "joy in heaven over one sinner who repents, than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance" – Lk 15:7
- All three of the Synoptic Gospels note the incident about Jesus having a feast at the house of Matthew, the tax collector turned disciple, and the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled about that:
- And it came about that He was reclining at table at his [Matthew's] house, and many tax-gatherers and sinners were dining with Jesus and His disciples; for there were many of them, and they were following Him. And when the scribes and the Pharisees saw that He was eating with the sinners and tax-gatherers, they began saying to His disciples, "Why is He eating and drinking with tax-gatherers and sinners?" And hearing this, Jesus said to them, "It is not those who are healthy who need a physician, but those who are sick; I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners" – Mk 2: 15-17; Mt 9:10-12; Lk5:29-30

- **2) He did not observe their traditions.** Another issue the Pharisees and the scribes raised in opposition to Jesus was that in His social relations He did not observe their traditions. When they saw some of the disciples eating bread without first washing their hands according to the Jewish tradition, the Pharisees and the scribes questioned Jesus, “Why do Your disciples not walk according to the traditions of the elders, but eat their bread with impure hands?” – Mk 7:5
- **3) He violated their Sabbath views.** Many of His miracles of healing were performed on Sabbaths, and the religious leaders saw in it the blatant disregard to the sacred Law.
- When the Pharisees saw the disciples pick heads of grain and eat on a Sabbath day, they questioned Jesus, “Behold Your disciples do what is not lawful to do on a Sabbath” – Mt 12:1-8; Mk 2:23-28; Lk 6:1-5

4. Summary

Christ had to die for us