

## **Interview 2**

### **David Jones**

Good Evening. I'm David Jones

This will be the second interview in a series of interviews with three men with unique connections to the crucifixion of Jesus Christ. In our first interview, we spoke with Matthew, one of the close disciples of Jesus. Tonight I'm speaking with one of the Jewish leaders who was involved with the trial and execution of Jesus. He agreed to talk with us on the condition we not identify him by name and will not be showing his face. We are again at an undisclosed location with assurances that the location is secure and anonymous.

### **DJ**

Thank you for being with us. I understand that you were at the trial of Jesus, is that correct?

### **Jewish Leader**

Yes

### **DJ**

What was your role in the trial?

### **Jewish Leader**

I was strictly there in an advisory capacity. As an expert in Jewish law, I was available to the religious leadership for any questions concerning the laws being challenged.

### **DJ**

What specific laws were being challenged by Jesus?

**Jewish Leader**

[chuckles]

It would be easier to tell you what laws he didn't challenge.

**DJ**

What was the atmosphere during the trial?

**Jewish Leader**

At first, there was a lot of tension. We were well aware that Jesus had a large following so we were very careful to be clear with our concerns. But once the trial started, the atmosphere changed a great deal.

**DJ**

Really? .... How so?

**Jewish Leader**

We were concerned that it would become a battle of philosophical ideas, but we quickly realized that Jesus had nothing to say ... [pauses with slight smile]... Guess he understood that truth was on trial and he knew that we were the ones holding the truth.

**DJ**

What truth are you talking about here?

**Jewish Leader**

The truth that we have been holding on to since the beginning of time. We have always been firm in our understanding of God and his teachings.

**DJ**

And you're saying Jesus did not defend himself?

**Jewish Leader**

He did not ... He just stood there ... Kind of sad really. They say he was such an eloquent speaker, yet when truth was put on trial, he had nothing to say... I find that curious.

**DJ**

When you took Jesus to Pilot, what specifically was he being charged with?

**Jewish Leader**

We had a long list of grievances that we were prepared to handle internally, but we also have an agreement with the government to present anyone of our people whom we find to be a threat to their rule. We had an obligation to present him to Pilot.

**DJ**

What threat did Jesus pose to the Roman government?

**Jewish Leader**

Trust me, he was as big a threat to the government as he was to us. He was encouraging his followers to abandon all rules and simply embrace Gods love.

**DJ**

No disrespect, but that doesn't sound so threatening ... embracing God's love?

**Jewish Leader**

It is if they start believing that kind of talk. There must be rules.. There must be order in our approach to God and to governing a society. We simply can not have people embracing God's love without any sense of order.... He was promoting absolute chaos, if you want my honest opinion.

**DJ**

Were you concerned when Pilot offered to release Barnabas or Jesus?

**Jewish Leader**

Not the least bit concerned. As I mentioned before, we had plenty of grievances and were prepared to handle them internally had Pilot released Jesus.

**DJ**

So you're saying that regardless, Jesus was going to die?

**Jewish Leader**

We were very confident that we had more than enough to bring justice to our people.

**DJ**

Were you concerned that he had performed so many miracles that he might be setting you all up for another one?

**Jewish Leader**

[scoffs at the question]

No, not at all .... listen, we gave him every opportunity to defend himself and the fact is that he just stood there with nothing to offer... If you ask me, this was a man who knew he had run out of time... the game was over, and he knew he had lost.

**DJ**

There are many who believed that he was the Messiah. Was there any discussion about the possibilities that you were putting to death the chosen one of God?

**Jewish Leader**

[obviously humored]

Of course not ... And I would challenge those who believe that to explain to me what part of Jesus' life even remotely reflects that of a Messiah... Please ... Those people who believe that nonsense have no understanding of the teachings regarding the coming Messiah ... to be clear - Jesus was NO Messiah.

**DJ**

What do you see happening to the followers now that Jesus is gone?

**Jewish Leader**

We are a forgiving people. It would be my hope that these misguided people take some time to reflect on their faith in God and reach out to us in a renewed spirit of working together to build Gods community.

**DJ**

What if one of the followers steps up to continue the movement?

**Jewish Leaders**

What leaders? Where were they when Jesus needed them yesterday? ... There is no movement... I am certain that in a couple of weeks this will all be done. They will either be back in the community, understanding the rule of Gods laws, or they will be far away hiding in humility of having been shattered by a Messiah that had nothing to offer but some misguided idea that love was all they needed.

**DJ**

And you have no concerns that Jesus was right in what he taught them?

**Jewish Leader**

None whatsoever... Look this whole idea that God is all about love is fine.. It's a good way to build a following as Jesus showed us. But those of us who understand Gods teaching know that you simply cannot rely on a message of love only. Being true to Gods teachings require a great deal of discipline and order. Any message of love can only work if it's followed within the framework of teachings that have been passed along from generation to generation. Love without discipline only promotes chaos, not harmony. Why would God want to honor such nonsense? All the great leaders of the Jewish faith understood this very basic truth - you will never find favor with God unless you adhere to the laws he has given us. You must be obedient to the laws.

**DJ**

There has been talk of a possible resurrection. After all, it was reported that Jesus raised his friend from the dead. Does this concern you?

**Jewish Leader**

[shakes his head and smiles]

Not at all. We have the body securely entombed and it is being carefully guarded. Any talk of a resurrection is purely a desperate reach for hope that will never happen. Trust me, this will all be done in a few weeks.

**DJ**

We'll leave it there. I appreciate you taking the time to speak with us during this challenging time.

**Jewish Leader**

This is not a challenging time, this is a time of strength for the Jewish population.