

## A TALE OF TWO TRIALS

### INTRODUCTION

1. Read Mark 14:53-72.
2. As we come to this passage, where are we in the life of Jesus?
3. What happened in the passage we read last week (14:26-52)? And why are the chief priests, elders, and scribes gathering together (v. 53)?
4. What does Peter do (v. 54)? Why do you think he does this and how was this risky?

### JESUS' TRIAL (v. 53-65)

1. This was the first of two trials for Jesus. It was not a trial meant to arrive at the truth but rather meant to accuse and condemn Jesus.
  - a. There were illegalities in performing this trial—a trial held at night, a capital case verdict reached on the same day, held in the palace of the high priest, etc.
  - b. They tried to obtain testimony against Jesus but did not find any (v. 55).
  - c. Those that gave testimony gave false testimony. These testimonies were not consistent (v. 56, 59; against God's command in Deuteronomy 19:15).
  - d. v. 57—“false testimony” = pseudo-testimony. Jesus did not say He would “destroy this temple” (v. 58). He did say that they would destroy the temple of His body (John 2:19)
  - e. Not getting the evidence he needed to convict, Caiaphas questioned Jesus. Jesus kept silent (fulfilling Isaiah 53:7—*“He was oppressed and he was afflicted, yet He did not open His mouth; like a lamb that is led to slaughter, and like a sheep that is silent before its shearers, so He did not open His mouth.”*)
  - f. Caiaphas gets more direct and asked if Jesus is the Messiah (v. 61). Jesus answered this question (v. 62...His time had come!). And His answer was absolutely clear:
    - i. “I am”—not only a clear confession but a repetition of God's answer to Moses, “I Am Who I Am” (Exodus 3:14).
    - ii. “The Son of Man sitting at the right hand of power”—while Jesus was submitting to a position of weakness now, He will ultimately rule in power (see also Psalm 110).
    - iii. “Coming with the clouds of heaven”—this was a reference to judgment (Daniel 7:13-14, *“I kept looking in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven One like a Son of Man was coming, and He came up to the Ancient of Days and was presented before Him. And to Him was given dominion, glory and a kingdom that all the peoples, nations and men of every language might serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion which will not pass away; and His kingdom is one which will not be destroyed.”*)
    - iv. Don't miss the tragic irony—one who will be casting judgment upon The Judge of all the earth.
  - g. Judgment is passed (v. 63-64)—Caiaphas was outraged; Jesus was charged with blasphemy and was condemned to death.
  - h. Jesus was also condemned to the mocking and beating of the officers (v. 65).

**Application:** Why was this trial so shameful and brutal? → It's what we deserve. Jesus is taking our judgment and condemnation. This is why He came.

**Application:** Why do we judge God and others with the balance of our agenda rather than His truth? Does that ever end well?

### PETER'S TRIAL (v. 66-72)

1. In contrast to Jesus' faithfulness and steadfastness is Peter's three-fold denial of Jesus.
2. This is Peter—the “Rock”—who said he would die rather than deny Jesus (Mark 14:31), who was willing to draw his sword for Jesus (Mark 14:47), who was an eye-witness to the transfiguration (Mark 9:1-13), to Lazarus being raised (John 11), to many healings, and who was one of the inner circle with Jesus. This is Peter who denied Jesus three times in Jesus' hour of greatest need.
3. Jesus told Peter this would happen (Mark 14:30). When the cock crowed the second time, it broke Peter's heart (v. 72). Or was it the look from Jesus that broke Peter's heart (Luke 22:61)?
4. Peter's broken heart is not the end of the story (see Mark 16:7 and John 21:15-17). Grace, mercy, forgiveness, restoration, and new life are the end of the story.

**Application:** How do you deny Jesus?

- Have you failed to stand with and for Jesus in opportunities to testify of Him?
- Have you denied His Lordship by your self-sufficiency?
- Have you denied His all-satisfying goodness by chasing after other lovers rather than pursuing the One Who is the Lover of your soul?
- Have you denied His glory by bowing to idols and by living as though you were the center of the universe?
- Have you denied His power by believing there is some circumstance in your life where He is not actively at work?
- Have you denied His Word by building up and securing a comfortable life for yourself rather than going to the nations and generations?
- Have you denied His love by continuing to live under the impossible weight of guilt, sin and shame?

**Application:** How do you deny Jesus? It doesn't matter—there is grace, mercy, forgiveness, restoration, and new life offered to you in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

### CONCLUSION

**Accusers and deniers**—Come and taste of this grace, mercy, forgiveness, restoration, and new life at the Lord's Table.