

Refuge City Church — October 18, 2020
“The Gospel of Mark” (Mark 14:53-72)

Introduction

- As we've been studying “PASSION WEEK” from Mark's account:
 - **The Perfumed Preparation** = sacrificial anointing of Jesus
 - **The Passover** = celebration of God's salvation
 - **The Participation** = Lord's Supper/Communion
 - **The Propitiation** = The new covenant of salvation through Christ's atonement
 - **The Prayer** = submission to God's will
 - **The Perfidiousness** = Judas' treachery/arrest of Jesus

- THIS MORNING = **The Prosecution** and **The Perjury**

Scripture Reading (Mark 14:53-72)

Verses 53-54

53 And they led Jesus to the high priest. And all the chief priests and the elders and the scribes came together. **54** And Peter had followed him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest. And he was sitting with the guards and warming himself at the fire.

- **CONTEXT:** From His arrest in the garden, Jesus goes through 3 Jewish trials.
 - One not mentioned in Mark's account
 - **John 18:13, 19-24**, “First they led him to Annas [former high priest], for he was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, who was high priest that year.”... “The high priest then questioned Jesus about his disciples and his teaching. Jesus answered him, “I have spoken openly to the world. I have always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where all Jews come together. I have said nothing in secret. Why do you ask me? Ask those who have heard me what I said to them; they know what I said.” When he had said these things, one of the officers standing by struck Jesus with his hand, saying, “Is that how you answer the high priest?” Jesus answered him, “If what I said is wrong, bear witness about the wrong; but if what I said is right, why do you strike me?” Annas then sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.”
 - Questioning Jesus concerning his disciples and teachings.
 - Then sent to the current high priest Caiaphas, for his “official” trial; but not before punishment begins.
 - Peter follows “to see the end” [Matthew 26:58; conclusion/result]

Verses 55-59

55 Now the chief priests and the whole council were seeking testimony against Jesus to put him to death, but they found none. **56** For many bore false witness against him, but their testimony did not agree. **57** And some stood up and bore false witness against him, saying, **58** “We heard him say, ‘I will destroy this temple that is made with hands, and in three days I will build another, not made with hands.’” **59** Yet even about this their testimony did not agree.

- **QUOTE:** “It is more difficult to agree on a consistent lie, then it is to tell the simple truth.” (R.A. Cole)
- According to custom and Jewish law, “no person shall be put to death on the testimony of one witness.” **[Numbers 35:30]**
 - Yet all the witnesses the council brought forward could provide no complimentary claim against Jesus.
- Twisting Jesus words
 - Witnesses = “I will destroy this temple that is made with hands, and in three days I will build another, not made with hands.”
 - Jesus = “**Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.**” **[John 2:19]**
 - Perjurer’s attempt = Convict Jesus for terrorism against the temple.
 - **Jeremiah 26:11, [After Jeremiah spoke God’s word of judgement on the people]** “This man deserves the sentence of death, because he has prophesied against this city, as you have heard with your own ears.”

Verses 60-65

60 And the high priest stood up in the midst and asked Jesus, “Have you no answer to make? What is it that these men testify against you?” **61** But he remained silent and made no answer. Again the high priest asked him, “Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?” **62** And Jesus said, “I am, and you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power, and coming with the clouds of heaven.” **63** And the high priest tore his garments and said, “What further witnesses do we need?” **64** You have heard his blasphemy. What is your decision?” And they all condemned him as deserving death. **65** And some began to spit on him and to cover his face and to strike him, saying to him, “Prophesy!” And the guards received him with blows.

- Jesus is now asked to respond.
 - He initially responds with silence. Why give an answer to information the council knew was falsified.
 - Yet when asked about His Messiahship, He responds with “I am”.
- His following statement affirms His claim, along with His coming judgment.
 - **Psalm 110:1**, “The Lord says to my Lord: “Sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies your footstool.”
 - **Daniel 7:13**, “I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him.”
- Jesus’ response was enough to elicit rage and an accusation of blasphemy, worthy of death.

- So much so, that they proceeded to spit on Him, hit him while blindfolded, and mock Him.
- **REMEMBER: Mark 10:33-34**, “...the Son of Man will be delivered over to the chief priests and the scribes, and they will condemn him to death and deliver him over to the Gentiles. And they will mock him and spit on him, and flog him and kill him. And after three days he will rise.”
- Since it was irregular to vote on capital offenses at night, they would wait until morning to hand down the official sentence.
- **What should be our response to the humiliation of Jesus?**
 1. We should bravely bear pain and humiliation for the sake of Jesus ourselves.
 - **John 15:20**, “If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you...”
 - **1 Peter 4:12**, “Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you.”
 2. We should be more diligent to praise Jesus.
 - His humiliation was for our salvation!
 - **1 Peter 4:13**, “But rejoice insofar as you share Christ’s sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed.”
 3. We should have more assurance and confidence in receiving the finished work of Jesus for our redemption.
 - **Hebrews 6:11-12**, “And we desire each one of you to show the same earnestness to have the full assurance of hope until the end, so that you may not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.”
- **QUOTE:** “If men were so eager to put him to shame, let us be ten times more earnest to bring him glory.” (Charles Spurgeon)

Verses 66-72

66 And as Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant girls of the high priest came, **67** and seeing Peter warming himself, she looked at him and said, “You also were with the Nazarene, Jesus.” **68** But he denied it, saying, “I neither know nor understand what you mean.” And he went out into the gateway and the rooster crowed. **69** And the servant girl saw him and began again to say to the bystanders, “This man is one of them.” **70** But again he denied it. And after a little while the bystanders again said to Peter, “Certainly you are one of them, for you are a Galilean.” **71** But he began to invoke a curse on himself and to swear, “I do not know this man of whom you speak.” **72** And immediately the rooster crowed a second time. And Peter remembered how Jesus had said to him, “Before the rooster crows twice, you will deny me three times.” And he broke down and wept.

- 3 times Peter is confronted about this association with Jesus.
- An amazing contrast between Jesus and Peter.
 - Jesus stands in full assurance and peace before the highest Jewish authority in the land accusing him to death.

- Peter crumbles under the pressure of a servant-girl.
 - **Denial #1:** “I don’t know what you mean”.
 - **Denial #2:** “I don’t know the man.”
 - **Denial #3:** “He swears by God the truth of his claim that he didn’t know Jesus.
- Instead of humility, Peter spoke and acted in pride
- Instead of staying alert and praying, he acted violently
- Instead of loyalty, he ran.
- Instead of fellowshiping with the other disciples for encouragement in those moments, he found himself sitting alone.
- Instead of speaking the truth, he lied.
- If we dare point a finger at Peter, we condemn ourselves... We.Are.Peter.
- At the rooster’s crow, Peter remembered the words of Jesus and he wept in shame.
- **[More Context] Luke 22:60-61**, “...And immediately, while he was still speaking, the rooster crowed. And the Lord turned and looked at Peter. And Peter remembered the saying of the Lord, how he had said to him, ‘Before the rooster crows today, you will deny me three times.’”
 - This was a look, not of condemnation or disappointment, but one of loving interest and concern.
 - **REMEMBER** the words of Jesus: **Luke 22:31-32**, “Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat, but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers.”
- The reflection of our disobedience to God’s word should cause us grief.
 - How many of us hear the Word of God, yet do nothing with it? How many of us listen to the words of Jesus, and live our lives in denial of what we are to do?
- YET, it is the same word of God that gives us HOPE.
 - **Hebrews 7:23-25 NLT**, “There were many priests under the old system, for death prevented them from remaining in office. But because Jesus lives forever, his priesthood lasts forever. Therefore he is able, once and forever, to save those who come to God through him. He lives forever to intercede with God on their behalf.”

Response/Conclusion

- **2 Corinthians 12:9**, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me.”
- Our success does not depend on our natural abilities, but on God's ‘power’ working in and through us. Our weaknesses can be a profound blessing if it results in our depending more on God and less on self.

- The greatest display of humiliation, weakness, and death [Christ's death on the cross], was in turn the greatest display of strength and power as it resulted in humanity's salvation.
- That is why it is vital we daily submit our life to Him and say 'not my strength, but yours. Not my wisdom, but yours. Not my will, but yours be done.' Amen.