

Bible Study: Gospel of Mark

September 21, 2022 // Life Church Smyrna

P. Christian Salzillo // Mark 14:53-72

Jesus' Trial

The Jewish leaders had great power and authority to govern Jewish affairs, but they could not impose the death penalty.

They considered Jesus an “authentic threat to their religion.”

As such, as crazy as it sounds, but they were actually trying to follow God’s law in dealing with Jesus, whom they considered to be a false prophet.

Compare the temple “made with human hands” (14:58) and the spiritual temple “not made by hands. See Matthew 18:20

In verse 62, Jesus declares for the first and only time his true identity, with OT implications. (see Rev 1:7, Daniel 7:13, Psalm 110:1)

63-65: It’s profound what can happen when you mix hate in your heart with a conviction that you are fighting for, honoring, and defending your god. ****As Christians, we must put our eyes on Jesus****

“The moment hate gets license in our lives to speak for our faith is the moment we are no longer connected to our faith.”

Our two stories tonight – Jesus on trial and Peter in the courtyard – are interconnected and even necessary to interpret each other.

Peter

Jesus

Each challenged by a 3-fold accusation

Each gives a definitive response

Negative response

Positive response

Each story becomes model for Mark’s audience

Whereas Jesus passes his trial even though it costs him his life, Peter – in his own trial – will end up lying to save his life.

Peter's Trial

Three times Peter is challenged

1. A nonthreatening maidservant – direct accusation
2. She comes back again, this time including the crowd
3. The crowd, noting his accent, accuses a third time

Peter's responses have judicial connotations; like denials under oath and before God.

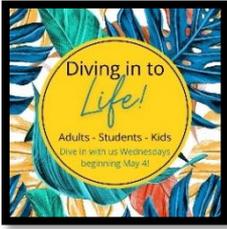
Yet there's another possibility here as well. It's very possible that Mark is carefully recording, for the reader to pick up on, that Peter is actually cursing Jesus in an attempt to distance himself from Jesus.

“Since it is unlikely that Peter is cursing himself, Mark, perhaps to avoid unnecessary affront or embarrassment, has omitted what the context would naturally suggest. In a final, desperate attempt to avoid association with Jesus, Peter possibly begins to curse Jesus.”

NIV Zondervan Study Bible

Questions

1. Why do you think Peter responded the way he did? At least at the beginning, a simple maidservant wouldn't be that threatening. And if they wanted him, they would have already arrested him with Jesus.
2. It's interesting that Jesus didn't feel the need to defend every charge thrown at him. He ignored the issue on the temple, refusing to wade into that debate. But on the issue of his Messiahship, he chose to powerfully declare the truth, even though it would fit the Jewish leaders' charge of blasphemy. Why do you think Jesus chose to speak up now?
3. Have you ever failed so bad, and knew it so deeply, that it caused deep anguish inside? How did you deal with it? How did you recover? What did you learn about the Lord in that situation?



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