

# Jesus and the Priests

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## I. Introduction.

- A. Text: Mark 14:53-72.
- B. The crucifixion of Jesus is the central event of history.
- C. A considerable crowd was gathered around Jesus at His trial.

## II. The trial was a farce.

- A. The chief priest sought witnesses because he sought to put Jesus to death.
- B. The whole trial was illegal from the beginning: it met at the wrong place and time.
- C. The witnesses twisted the truth, and the details were mixed.
- D. The high priest illegally asks Jesus to testify against Himself, and Jesus responds that He is the Son of Man coming from on high.
  - 1. The high priest tears his robe indicating blasphemy.
  - 2. Jesus clearly claims to be both Messiah and Son of God.
  - 3. Both believers and unbelievers will step outside of time at the end of their lives—Jesus describes the judgment of unbelievers here.
- E. Jesus was spit upon, but He did not revile in return. We are to do the same. (I Peter)

## III. Peter denies Jesus.

- A. In the pride of his determination, Peter's fear begins to melt his heart.
- B. Peter broke down when he realized what he did in an agony of remorse.
- C. Both Peter and the priests display the undependability of human nation—this is the flesh.
- D. Mark wants the readers to see that the love of Peter was no more effective than the hatred of the priests.
- E. There is another day for Peter though where he will be restored.
- F. We are to hold to the simplicity that is Christ—the sense of weakness that rests upon the power of God. (I Corinthians 12)

## **Application questions:**

1. Have you ever faced persecution and insult from outsiders? What was your response? How does Jesus model the appropriate response to unjust suffering?

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2. How are Peter and the priests similar? What does this teach us about ourselves?

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3. What hope do we have when our flesh is so undependable? Explain.

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