

Title: Our King Was Condemned

Passage: Mark 14:53-65

EXPOSITION

Context of Passage:

Mark 14:43

And immediately, while he was still speaking, Judas came, one of the twelve, and with him a crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the scribes and the elders.

- Who sent this crowd? Chief priests, scribes, and elders.
- How large? 600 Roman soldiers (1/10th of a legion)
- Why? To arrest one man in a garden

Mark 14:44

Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, "The one I will kiss is the man. Seize him and lead him away under guard."

- Under guard = large group of soldiers.
- Where? Mark 14:53

EXPOSITION

Passage: Mark 14:53-65

Mark 14:53

And they led Jesus to the high priest. And all the chief priests and the elders and the scribes came together.

And they led Jesus to the high priest

- From the garden where Jesus was arrested with large group of soldiers.

All the chief priests and the elders and the scribes came together

Psalms 2:2-6

The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD and against his Anointed, saying, "Let us burst their bonds apart and cast away their cords from us." He who sits in the heavens laughs; the Lord holds them in derision. Then he will speak to them in his wrath, and terrify them in his fury, saying, "As for me, I have set my King on Zion, my holy hill."

- evil gathered together in unit against Jesus

This evil scheming was not a surprise to Jesus:

Mark 8:31-32

And he began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes and be killed, and after three days rise again. And he said this plainly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him.

Mark 9:9

And as they were coming down the mountain, he charged them to tell no one what they had seen, until the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

Mark 9:30-31

They went on from there and passed through Galilee. And he did not want anyone to know, for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill him. And when he is killed, after three days he will rise."

Mark 14:54

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.

- Peter: a picture of a mixture of grace and corruption
 - “Followed him at a distance”: grace, love
 - “Right into the courtyard” / Stayed back: corruption, fear
 - Why? Wants to maintain an escape route while being close to hear.
 - World’s unity is intimidating.

Questions of Reflection:

- Have you been following Jesus at a distance?
 - Draw near.
- Are there comforts that are numbing you from following Jesus more closely?

Mark 14:55-56

Now the chief priests and the whole council were seeking testimony against Jesus to put him to death, but they found none. For many bore false witness against him, but their testimony did not agree.

- over 70 people were scrutinizing Jesus over the years trying to pin Jesus down on a charge but nothing sticks.
 - “They found none”
 - “Their testimony did not agree”
- But Jesus still was in complete control.

Psalms 72:1

Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to the royal son!

Jeremiah 23:5-6

“Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In his days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely. And this is the name by which he will be called: The LORD is our righteousness.’

Zechariah 9:9a

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he,

Sanhedrin's proceedings violated many rules concerning trials:

- Night trials were forbidden.
- Verdicts had to wait until the second day.
- Witnesses had to give first-hand, direct testimony.
- Blasphemy was strictly the misuse of Yahweh’s name.
- Hearings couldn’t happen at high priest home.
- Crucifixion was illegal.

Point: Truth is not found in consensus.

Mark 14:57-59

And some stood up and bore false witness against him, saying, “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.” Yet even about this their testimony did not agree.

- Trial then abandoned the civil witnesses and instead a few of the Sanhedrin themselves stood up and tried to accuse Jesus.
- Point: Don't put Christ on trial in evangelism
 - The lost are not judge or jury of Jesus. (They don't have the power to assess what is correct or not)
 - The Gospel of Jesus is black and white: believe the truth or die.
 - We are not to be timid or fear in light of the truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Accusation against Jesus:

"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."

Truth: Illegal charge based on lies/misconstrued facts

John 2:18-19

So the Jews said to him, "What sign do you show us for doing these things?" Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up."

- Truth: Jesus did not say He would destroy the Jewish temple (but the Jews would)
- Temple - two words/references:
 - Physical building and complex
 - Most Holy Place
 - where God dwells
- Jesus did not reference 1) the physical temple to be broken but was referring to 2) His own body.

Jeremiah 26:4, 6, 8 (Old testament prophecy/parallel)

You shall say to them, 'Thus says the LORD: If you will not listen to me, to walk in my law that I have set before you,...then I will make this house like Shiloh, and I will make this city a curse for all the nations of the earth.'...And when Jeremiah had finished speaking all that the LORD had commanded him to speak to all the people, then the priests and the prophets and all the people laid hold of him, saying, "You shall die!

- Jeremiah gave prophecy, but leaders condemned him
- Likewise, Sanhedrin heard from the Word of God but condemned Jesus.

Matthew 12:6 (Jesus)

I tell you, something greater than the temple is here.

Acts 7:51-52 (Stephen)

"You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit. As your fathers did, so do you. Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? And they killed those who announced beforehand the coming of the Righteous One, whom you have now betrayed and murdered,

Acts 17:24-25 (Paul)

The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything.

Matthew 21:9

And the crowds that went before him and that followed him were shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!"

Truth: Jewish leaders' view of the temple was weak (not strong)

Matthew 23:16-17

"Woe to you, blind guides, who say, 'If anyone swears by the temple, it is nothing, but if anyone swears by the gold of the temple, he is bound by his oath.' You blind fools! For which is greater, the gold or the temple that has made the gold sacred?"

Mark 14:59

Yet even about this their testimony did not agree.

- The whole trial thus far has been ineffective and inconclusive.

Mark 14:60

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?"

- High priest pushes aside the proceedings in exasperation in light of the continuing ineffectiveness.

Mark 14:61a

But he remained silent and made no answer.

- Jesus was in complete control and confident. He didn't need to give any defense to all the accusations.
- Jesus silence was strategic - see Old Testament prophecy:

Isaiah 53:7

He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth.

- all the accusations raised have been false.
- Jesus need not dignify lies/perjury.

Questions of Reflection:

- In face of increasing hostility in the world, do we stand strong and courageous or cower in fear?
- Do we do what is right or what is easy?

Mark 14:61a

Again the high priest asked him, "Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?"

- Jesus' silence drove Caiaphas to finally ask the key question:
 - Is Jesus the One mentioned in Psalm 2 - the Christ/Messiah?

Psalms 2:4-12

He who sits in the heavens laughs; the Lord holds them in derision. Then he will speak to them in his wrath, and terrify them in his fury, saying,

"As for me, I have set my King on Zion, my holy hill."

I will tell of the decree:

The LORD said to me, "You are my Son; today I have begotten you. Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage, and the ends of the earth your possession. You shall break them with a rod of iron and dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel." Now therefore, O kings, be wise; be warned, O rulers of the earth. Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling. Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and you perish in the way, for his wrath is quickly kindled. Blessed are all who take refuge in him.

Mark 14:62a

And Jesus said, "I am,

- Jesus breaks the silence with the key words of His identity.
- Origin of "I am":

Exodus 3:13-14

Then Moses said to God, "If I come to the people of Israel and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?" God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." And he said, "Say this to the people of Israel: 'I AM has sent me to you.'"

- Meaning: Jesus is not only the Anointed/Messiah in Psalm 2 but also Yahweh in Exodus 3.

Mark 14:62b

and you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power, and coming with the clouds of heaven."

- After making clear His deity, Jesus continues to point to other Old Testament prophecies.

Daniel 7:13-14

"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. And to him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed.

Psalms 110:1-2

The LORD says to my Lord: "Sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies your footstool." The LORD sends forth from Zion your mighty scepter. Rule in the midst of your enemies!

Questions of Reflection:

- Do your emotions get excited about what Jesus gets excited about?
- Are you in awe of the glory of God?

Revelation 1:7-8 (picture of Second Coming)

Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him, and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of him. Even so. Amen. "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."

Acts 4:11-14 (trial weeks after Jesus' ascension)

This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated, common men, they were astonished. And they recognized that they had been with Jesus. But seeing the man who was healed standing beside them, they had nothing to say in opposition.

- Sanhedrin recognized their own guilt.

Mark 14:63

And the high priest tore his garments and said, "What further witnesses do we need? You have heard his blasphemy. What is your decision?"

- High priest Caiaphas then pressures the Sanhedrin to make a formal decision.
- Irony: Capiaphas would judge the True Judge.

Mark 14:64-65

And they all condemned him as deserving death. And some began to spit on him and to cover his face and to strike him, saying to him, "Prophecy!" And the guards received him with blows.

- Who began beating Jesus? The Sanhedrin (the religious leaders/priests)
 - They started the mutilation of the Messiah
 - Though they stand on the law, they broke it themselves.

Isaiah 11:3

And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear,

- The Messiah would judge based on the truth needing not sight or hearing.

Isaiah 50:6

I gave my back to those who strike, and my cheeks to those who pull out the beard; I hid not my face from disgrace and spitting.

- Old Testament prophecy of Jesus' submission to the torture.
 - Why? For the glory of God.
 - How? Jesus was taking the disgrace and punishment we deserved. He was the sin-bearer so that we may come before the holy God.

Question of Reflection:

- Do you hear God calling you?
- What will you do with the truth?
- Do you love Jesus?