



Jesus & the Council

Nov 20

INTRODUCTION: In the Garden Jesus has begun the process of becoming the atoning sacrifice for sinners that will culminate on the cross. This is how He will become King. Here, Jesus suffers injustice as part of this. Ironically, the victim will soon become the victor; the criminal the Judge! Here, God Himself is on trial.

REVIEW: [Mark](#) (be cautious with other videos)

KEY POINT: injustice; false witness, atonement, fulfillment

A.M. SERMON RECAP (Jesus Betrayed, Mk 14:43–50)

- How does this episode begin to rush the story to its climax?
- While part of God's plan, discuss the treasonous betrayal of Judas at the human level. How did he betray Jesus?
- While Peter tried to help Jesus become King by force, what was Jesus' way of becoming King?

P.M. SERMON RECAP (The Naked Man, Mk 14:51–52)

- Why do we suspect this was Mark himself? How do eyewitnesses help strengthen trust in the Gospels?
- How does this episode help highlight Jesus' betrayal and road to Calvary?
- What does this passage reveal about Mark (Acts 13:13)? How can we stand firm?

READ: Mk 14:53–65

QUESTIONS:

1. **How is God on trial in our culture today?**
2. **What is an *ad hoc* trial? What are elements of a fair trial? Why aren't these being followed?**
3. *After His nighttime arrest, a nighttime Council is also convened ('rooster,' and 'in the morning'). Why would you arrest an innocent man and try Him in the dark?*

4. *In v. 53 and v. 55 it notes the whole council was convened. How would this have been possible at night and the night of the Passover?*
5. *V. 54–Peter shows up here, not as someone who is active, but to chart his own story that re-emerges in v.66.*
6. *The Sanhedrin, or Jewish Council, was made up of 70 members + the High Priest. One third was needed for a quorum. V. 53 states the three groups: chief priest, teachers of the Law; and the elders (elite families). The Sanhedrin handled the religious affairs of the Jewish nation. When acting as a court they sat in a semi-circle. In the middle were the accused and witnesses. The accused did not have a lawyer but defended themselves.*
7. *A night time gathering was certainly irregular; possibly illegal.*
8. *To accomplish their wish (14:1) they needed to satisfy the Jews that Jesus was deserving of death and then satisfy the Romans, who held the prerogative to sentence capital crimes. Here they focus on religious reasons. On differing witnesses c.f. Dt 19:15.*
9. *V.55- They were seeking testimony against. **Why would they never find a such evidence?***
10. *Testimony 1- v. 56- What charge/evidence is brought?*
11. *Testimony 2 – v. 57–59- What charge/evidence is brought? (Jesus did say something similar to this, Jn 2:19).*
12. **What is the 9th commandment? What was the punishment for breaking it? What (among others!) sin are they committing?**
13. *Testimony 3- The Chief Priest takes charge of the situation. Caiaphas had a long and crafty tenure, evidenced here. First, he urges Jesus to respond. **What are some reasons why Jesus remained silent?***
14. *V. 61- Caiaphas changes track with a direct question (c.f. Mk 1:1). Jesus finally explicitly answers who He is. Yet, He is more than Caiaphas imagines: read Ps 110:1 (cited in Mk 12:36 that the Messiah is more than a mere man) and Dan 7:13–14. **What is Jesus claiming?***
15. **Ironically, in the face of false witnesses, who alone is speaking the truth?**
16. *Finally, they secure a capital charge. Read Lev 24:16. **What is blasphemy? Do we take this seriously today?***

17. *Vv. 65- How do they devalue/reject Jesus? Are their actions just?*
18. *Jesus continues to endure the physical, emotional, mental and spiritual ordeal of atonement.*
19. *We too may face unjust treatment as Christians (even the souls in heaven cry out, Rev 6:10). How is the Judge our great comfort?*

NEXT WEEK: Nov 27- Mark 15:6–15, Pilate Delivers Jesus