

Welcome to Grace Christian Fellowship

Jesus is Lord!
(Romans 10:9)

Topic:

Matthew 26:57 - 75
Jesus in his final week: Wednesday(?) late evening
- His pre-trial interview, then Peter's three denials

- all verses are from the **ESV** unless otherwise stated

1

Context & Review

The Last week of Jesus' life - likely late Wednesday evening

During the meal Jesus establishes the new covenant. Judas leaves. They travel to Mount of Olives. Jesus predicts that the disciples will abandon him. Judas betrays him. Jesus is arrested.

As we read today's text ... does anything sound odd, hard to interpret?

2

Matthew 26:57-75

Jesus Before Caiaphas and the Council

⁵⁷ Then those who had seized Jesus led him to Caiaphas the high priest, where the scribes and the elders had gathered. ⁵⁸ And Peter was following him at a distance, as far as the courtyard of the high priest, and going inside he sat with the guards to see the end. ⁵⁹ Now the chief priests and the whole council [Sanhedrin] were seeking false testimony against Jesus that they might put him to death, ⁶⁰ but they found none, though many false witnesses came forward. At last two came forward ⁶¹ and said, "This man said, 'I am able to destroy the temple of God, and to rebuild it in three days.'" ⁶² And the high priest stood up and said, "Have you no answer to make? What is it that these men testify against you?" [Have you no answer to what these men testify against you?]

3

Matthew 26:57-75

⁶³ But Jesus remained silent. And the high priest said to him, "I adjure you by the living God, tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God." ⁶⁴ Jesus said to him, "You have said so. But I tell you, from now on you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power and coming on the clouds of heaven." ⁶⁵ Then the high priest tore his robes and said, "He has uttered blasphemy. What further witnesses do we need? You have now heard his blasphemy. ⁶⁶ What is your judgment?" They answered, "He deserves death." ⁶⁷ Then they spit in his face and struck him. And some slapped him, ⁶⁸ saying, "Prophecy to us, you Christ! Who is it that struck you?"

4

Matthew 26:57-75

Peter Denies Jesus

⁶⁹ Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. And a servant girl came up to him and said, "You also were with Jesus the Galilean." ⁷⁰ But he denied it before them all, saying, "I do not know what you mean." ⁷¹ And when he went out to the entrance, another servant girl saw him, and she said to the bystanders, "This man was with Jesus of Nazareth." ⁷² And again he denied it with an oath: "I do not know the man." ⁷³ After a little while the bystanders came up and said to Peter, "Certainly you too are one of them, for your accent betrays you." ⁷⁴ Then he began to invoke a curse on himself and to swear, "I do not know the man." And immediately the rooster crowed. ⁷⁵ And Peter remembered the saying of Jesus, "Before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times." And he went out and wept bitterly.

5

Unpacking today's text

6

Matthew 26:57-75 [Mark 14:53-65] {Luke 22:63-71}

Jesus Before Caiaphas and the Council

<John 18:12-14; 19-24 — Jesus first speaks to Annas (previously high priest and father of 5 high priests and father-in-law of Caiaphas - currently high priest) then on to Caiaphas (exact sequence unclear here) for an Unofficial preparation for the final trial>

⁵⁷ Then those who had seized Jesus led him to Caiaphas the high priest, where the scribes and the elders had gathered. ⁵⁸ And Peter was following him at a distance, as far as the courtyard of the high priest, and going inside he sat with the guards [and warming himself at the fire] to see the end. ⁵⁹ Now {when day came,} the chief priests and the whole council (Sanhedrin) **were seeking false testimony** against Jesus that they might put him to death, ⁶⁰ but they found none, though many false witnesses came forward [but their testimony did not agree].

What does this say about Jesus' reputation?
How did so many testifiers appear for this trial?

7

Matthew 26:57-75 [Mark 14:53-65] {Luke 22:63-71}

Jesus Before Caiaphas and the Council

... At last two came forward ⁶¹ and said, "This man said, 'I am able to **destroy** the temple of God [that is made with hands], and to **rebuild** [another, not made with hands] in three days.*" [Yet even about this their testimony did not agree.] ⁶² And the high priest stood up and said, "Have you no answer to make? What is it that these men testify against you?" [Have you no answer to what these men testify against you?]

*Both Matthew and Mark relate details about what witnesses claimed Jesus had said and were fairly accurate, but this actual event is only found in John.

Do you remember what Jesus meant?

8

Jesus Cleanses the Temple (John 2)

¹³ The Passover of the Jews was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ¹⁴ In the temple he found those who were selling oxen and sheep and pigeons, and the money-changers sitting there. ¹⁵ And making a whip of cords, he drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and oxen. And he poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables. ... ¹⁸ So the Jews said to him, "What sign do you show us for doing these things?" ¹⁹ Jesus answered them, "**Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.**" ²⁰ The Jews then said, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will you raise it up in three days?" ²¹ But he was speaking about the temple of his body. ²² When therefore he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the Scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

Who would destroy "this temple"? What did the people think?

9

Matthew 26:57-75 [Mark 14:53-65] {Luke 22:63-71}

Jesus makes a prophecy that he would die and his body would be raised.

The statement was not explained at the time but left as a mystery.

The onlookers were shocked by what it sounded like.

Some of these remembered their impression of what Jesus said and later used it against him at his trial.

John explains that it was not fully understood until after Jesus was raised.

Does this account highlight the spiritual awareness of the closest followers?

10

Matthew 26:57-75 [Mark 14:53-65] {Luke 22:63-71}

⁶³ But Jesus remained silent*. And the high priest said to him, "I adjure you by the living God, tell us if you are the **Christ**, the Son of God [the Blessed]. {"If you are the Christ, tell us." But he said to them, "If I tell you, you will not believe, and if I ask you, you will not answer.}"

*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.

Zechariah 6:12

And say to him, 'Thus says Yahweh of hosts, "Behold, the man whose name is the Branch: for he shall branch out from his place, and **he shall build the temple of Yahweh.**"

11

Matthew 26:57-75 [Mark 14:53-65] {Luke 22:63-71}

⁶⁴ Jesus said to him, "[I am] **You have said so.** But I tell you, from now on you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of **Power** and coming on the clouds of heaven." ⁶⁵ Then the high priest tore his robes and said, "He has uttered blasphemy. **What further witnesses do we need?** You have now heard his blasphemy.

What was the blasphemy?

Psalm 110:1

Yahweh says to my Lord: "Sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies your footstool."

Compare Daniel 7:14

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. ¹⁴ 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 ...

Jesus was claiming to be the Christ, the Son of Man, who was holy enough to be seated next to God and be granted the service ("LXX - 'temple worship') of the world.

12

Matthew 26:57-75 [Mark 14:53-65] {Luke 22:63-71}

Back up and examine what Jesus said in verse 64:

⁶⁴ ... But I tell you, **from now on** you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power and coming on the clouds of heaven."

Does this sound puzzling?

This same Greek **phrase** is *not* found in the parallel passages of Mark 14:62 or Luke 22:69.

This (Matthew) text may be rendered:

"But I tell you, **certainly** you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power and coming on the clouds of heaven."

The UBS 5th edition (2014) reads 'from now on'
But the Greek NT Text (published by Tyndale House; 2017)
reads 'certainly'

13

A similar situation occurs in 5 other verses in the NT such as:

Matthew 23:39 - NAS

For I say to you, **from now on (indeed)** you will not see Me until you say, 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!'

Revelation 14:13 - ESV

And I heard a voice from heaven saying, "Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord **from now on (indeed)**." "Blessed indeed," says the Spirit, "that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow them!"

14

Matthew 26:57-75 [Mark 14:53-65] {Luke 22:63-71}

⁶⁶ What is your judgment?" They answered, "He deserves death." ⁶⁷ Then they spit in his face and struck him. And some slapped him, ⁶⁸ saying, "Prophecy to us, you Christ! Who is it that struck you?" [And the guards received him with blows.]

What would have happened if Jesus had remained silent?

Have you ever been mistreated worse than you deserved?

Who has received what we truly deserve?

Humans tend to excuse everything we do personally and condemn what others do.

What does Jesus do?
He forgives you and while receiving your condemnation on himself!

15

Matthew 26:57-75 [Mark 14:66-72] {Luke 22:54-62}
<John 18:15-18, 25-27>

Peter Denies Jesus

<Simon Peter followed Jesus, and so did another disciple. Since that disciple was known to the high priest, he entered with Jesus into the courtyard of the high priest, but Peter stood outside at the door. So the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out and spoke to the servant girl who kept watch at the door, and brought Peter in.> ⁶⁹ <the servants and officers had made a charcoal fire, because it was cold> {When they had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and sat down together, Peter sat down among them.}

16

Matthew 26:57-75 [Mark 14:66-72] {Luke 22:54-62}
<John 18:15-18, 25-27>

Now Peter was sitting [below] outside in the courtyard. And [one of the] servant girl[s] [of the high priest] <, the servant girl at the door> came up to him [and seeing Peter warming himself] {as he sat in the light and looking closely at him} and said, (1) "You also were with Jesus the Galilean [Nazarene]." ⁷⁰ But he denied it before them all, saying, "I do not know what you mean. {I do not know him.}" ⁷¹ And when he went out to the entrance, another servant girl saw him, and she said to the bystanders, (2) "This man was with Jesus of Nazareth." ⁷² And again he denied it with an (sacred) **oath**: "I do not know the man."

Would an early Christian fabricate a religion where the key Apostle denies Jesus?

17

Matthew 26:57-75 [Mark 14:66-72] {Luke 22:54-62}
<John 18:15-18, 25-27>

⁷³ After a little while {an interval of about an hour} the bystanders came up and <one of the servants of the high priest, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off.> said to Peter, (3) "Certainly you too are one of them, for your accent betrays you {for he too is a Galilean}. <Did I not see you in the garden with him>?" ⁷⁴ Then he began to invoke a **curse on himself** and to swear, "I do not know the man." {"Man, I do not know what you are talking about."} And immediately the rooster crowed [a second time]*. ⁷⁵ And Peter remembered the saying of Jesus, "Before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times." And he went out and wept bitterly.

*The Greek text in Mark may have some difficulties or the 'second' crowing may indicate a multiple or long crowing.

What does this tell us about Peter? Why can this encourage us?
Have you ever messed up like Peter?

18

Lessons learned

How does this account point to the truthfulness of the Gospel accounts?

- Same story across all 4 accounts yet with different details.
- The differences between the accounts adds details and helps to see it as a true story.
- The story does not coverup the weaknesses of the leadership.
- The story claims there were many prominent people involved in the trial who could be verified. (Reference to the high priest, name of the slave, Malchus, and his relative.)

How might this account help you in your walk?

- Be listening for God's call to ministry
- Be prepared for personal sacrifices
- Be willing to repent if you act like Peter
- Forgive others who act like Peter
- Know of God's grace and mercy when you sin

19

Next time ...

Matthew 27:1 -

20