

# **Trials and Denials**

**Mark 14:50-15:20**

# Jesus Is Arrested

And they all left him and fled. And a young man followed him, with nothing but a linen cloth about his body. And they seized him, but he left the linen cloth and ran away naked.

Mk 14:50-52 (ESV)

# Jesus Is Arrested

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Mk 14:50-52 (ESV)

**“I was there, and I too ran away”**

# Jesus and the High Priest

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

<sup>54</sup>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.

<sup>55</sup>Now the chief priests and the whole Council were seeking testimony against Jesus to put him to death, but they found none.

Mk 14:53-55 (ESV)

For many bore false witness against him, but their testimony did not agree. 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. 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?”

Mk 14:56-60 (ESV)

But he remained silent and made no answer. Again the high priest asked him, “Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?” And Jesus said, “I am, and you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power, and coming with the clouds of heaven.” And the high priest tore his garments and said, “What further witnesses do we need? You have heard his blasphemy. What is your decision?” 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.

Mk 14:61-65 (ESV)

# Trial at Caiaphas' House

- Not really a trial
- Modern day “discovery”
  - they were seeking testimony against Jesus to put him to death
- Turned into a “Kangaroo court”
  - false witnesses, “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,’”

# The Temple...

“Do you see these great buildings? There will not be left here one stone upon another that will not be thrown down.”

Mk 13:2 (ESV)

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.” The Jews then said, “It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will you raise it up in three days?” But he was speaking about the temple of his body.

Jn 2:18-21 (ESV)

# Jesus Was Silent

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?” But he remained silent and made no answer.

Mk 14:60-61a (ESV)

# Jesus Was Silent

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- ✓ Important for Mark’s readers
- ✓ Jesus is the model

when they bring you to trial and deliver you over, do not be anxious beforehand what you are to say, but say whatever is given you in that hour, for it is not you who speak, but the Holy Spirit (Mk 13:11)

# ***“Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?”***

- Jesus has been discrete about His identity
  - Did not allow people to openly declare...
  - Forced demons to be silent
  - Charged a leper
  - Spoke in parables
  - Only gentiles hear about the demoniac
  - Jairus told not to tell
  - Disciples confess Him as the Christ, told ***to tell no one about him*** (Mk 8:30)

# Jesus Identifies Himself

**“I am, and you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power, and coming with the clouds of heaven.”**

the Blessed  
Power } Refer to God

Devout Jews don't even say  
“God” or “YHWH” or “Jehovah”

Ps 110, Daniel 7... Jesus is the coming Judge...

# The Sentence...

- religious leaders... Jesus had uttered blasphemy
  - proper penalty was death
  - They spit on, beat, blindfold, mock Jesus
- Mark's readers... gospel is raw, new, exciting message that can cure mankind
  - “the gospel can cure every kind of stupid”

# Hardened, Blinded...

Many were hardened, simply would not believe  
Blindfolded, a veil was over their hearts

the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God (2 Cor 4:4).

And Jesus said, No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him (Jn 6:44).

**Only God can open people's eyes**

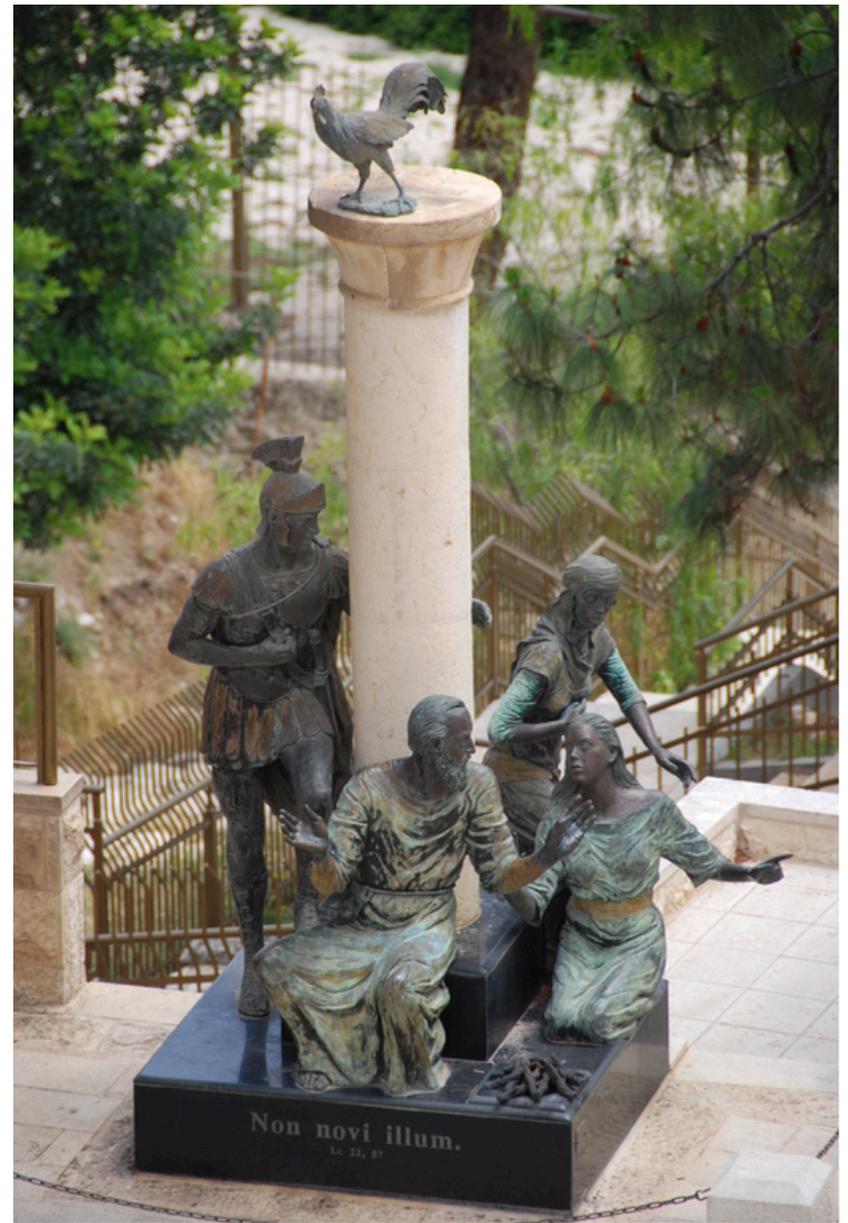
# Peter's Denial

And as Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant girls of the high priest came, and seeing Peter warming himself, she looked at him and said, "You also were with the Nazarene, Jesus." But he denied it, saying, "I neither know nor understand what you mean." And he went out into the gateway and the rooster crowed. And the servant girl saw him and began again to say to the bystanders, "This man is one of them." But again he denied it. And after a little while the bystanders again said to Peter, "Certainly you are one of them, for you are a Galilean."

Mk 14:66-70 (ESV)

But he began to invoke a curse on himself and to swear, “I do not know this man of whom you speak.” And immediately the rooster crowed a second time. And Peter remembered how Jesus had said to him, “Before the rooster crows twice, you will deny me three times.” And he broke down and wept.

Mk 14:71-72 (ESV)



Peter's Denial  
Church of St. Peter in Gallicantu

**Scatter!**

**‘I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep will  
be scattered’**

(Mark 14:27; Zechariah 13:7)

**Sin result of fear of also being arrested**

**Fear of man > love for Jesus**

**Standing with Jesus will earn the ire of many**

**Sometimes fear humiliation**

# Redemption

**Peter's is a story of redemption**

**God can help us live faithfully for Christ  
by the power of the Holy Spirit**

# Jesus Delivered to Pilate

And as soon as it was morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole Council. And they bound Jesus and led him away and delivered him over to Pilate. And Pilate asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” And he answered him, “You have said so.” And the chief priests accused him of many things. And Pilate again asked him, “Have you no answer to make? See how many charges they bring against you.” But Jesus made no further answer, so that Pilate was amazed.

Mk 15:1-5 (ESV)

Now at the feast he used to release for them one prisoner for whom they asked. And among the rebels in prison, who had committed murder in the insurrection, there was a man called Barabbas. And the crowd came up and began to ask Pilate to do as he usually did for them. And he answered them, saying, “Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?” For he perceived that it was out of envy that the chief priests had delivered him up. But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release for them Barabbas instead.

Mk 15:6-11 (ESV)

And Pilate again said to them, “Then what shall I do with the man you call the King of the Jews?” And they cried out again, “Crucify him.” And Pilate said to them, “Why, what evil has he done?” But they shouted all the more, “Crucify him.”

Mk 15:12-14 (ESV)

So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released for them Barabbas, and having scourged Jesus, he delivered him to be crucified. And the soldiers led him away inside the palace (that is, the governor's headquarters), and they called together the whole battalion. And they clothed him in a purple cloak, and twisting together a crown of thorns, they put it on him. And they began to salute him, "Hail, King of the Jews!" And they were striking his head with a reed and spitting on him and kneeling down in homage to him. And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. And they led him out to crucify him.

Mk 15:15-20 (ESV)

# Sanhedrin's Plot

**Sanhedrin (leaders) convened**



**Confirm blasphemy  
charge**



***Come up with a charge for Pilate  
(deduce - leading insurrection,  
claiming to be the King of Israel)***

***And the chief priests accused him of many  
things***

# Jesus' Response

**Did not try to defend Himself**



***Claim of kingship...***

***"You have said so."***

# Pilate's Dilemma

**Knows charges are fabricated**



**Releasing Jesus = RIOT**



**career over**



**Releases Barabbas**



**Concern for public  
opinion – crucify  
Jesus**



**Conscience would  
not allow Him**

**Scourging..**

***his appearance was so marred,  
beyond human semblance, and  
his form beyond that of the  
children of mankind (Is 52:14)***

# As Jesus Predicted...

Readers were intended to understand

- A friend would betray Him ✓
- The disciples would desert Him ✓
- He would be delivered into the hands of men ✓
- He would be condemned... ✓
- Peter would deny Him 3x ✓
- The gentiles would put Him to death ✓

God is in control of history

Every person and nation will answer to Jesus, the  
Righteous Judge

# Question...

**are we ready,  
are we encouraged, and  
trusting the Lord Jesus  
to carry us through the tough times,  
that we might rejoice all the more in  
the easier times?**