

“False Accusations and True Confession”

Mark 14:53-65, 15:1-15

“The chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin were looking for evidence against Jesus so they could put Him to death, but they did not find any.” (14:56)

How sad it is when people refuse to believe what is true and go out of their way to make up a lie in order to get what they want! It's even more sad when scholars and religious leaders who should know better, are so threatened by the truth, will go to the extreme of breaking the law to 'prove' they are in the right. The trial(s) of Jesus display how the darkness of sin and refusal to believe even when the evidence is very clear. Both the religious leaders and Pilate allow Jesus to die because of fear. The Jewish leaders are afraid to lose their power over Israel to Jesus, whereas Pilate is afraid of the people rioting (which might cause him to lose power!) if he releases Jesus!

“Religious Trial at Night” **(14:53-65)**

What night was this?

14:16 P _____

This of course was one of the most holy feasts of the year that one shared with their families. Yet who is quick to leave their families on Passover night to incriminate Jesus?

14:53 the chief _____, _____ of the law and _____ all gather at the _____ priest's home

What was the purpose of this gathering?

14:55 to find evidence against Jesus so they could put Him to _____

Were they able to find any evidence?

14:55 “but they did _____ find any”

Why not?

14:56 the testimonies against Him were _____ and they could not get people to agree

What specific charge is mentioned?

14:57-58 that Jesus would destroy the _____ and rebuild it “without hands”

Where did this come from? What was actually said?

John 2:12-22

vv.12-16 Jesus drove out the _____ and upset tables in the _____ court

vv.17-18 the Jews demanded Jesus to perform a _____ to prove His _____

v.19 Jesus said “Destroy _____ temple and I will _____ it again in 3 days”

vv.20-22 Jesus was speaking about His _____ not the temple

How did Jesus respond to all these false charges?

14:61 He remained _____ & gave _____ answer

See how this actually fulfils Scripture

Is. 53:7 “He was oppressed and afflicted, yet He did not open His _____ . . .”

***How do we often respond to accusations and insults?**

Jesus does respond to the High Priest’s direct question. What’s the question?

14:61 “Are You the _____ the Son of the Blessed One”

***What did Jesus actually affirm with that statement?**

Note carefully Jesus’ answer in 14:62 -

- “I_____” [cf. John 8:58-59; Ex. 3:14]

- “You will _____ the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of The Mighty One” [cf Ps. 110:1-2]

- “and coming on the clouds of heaven” [cf. Dan. 7:13-14]

The High priest tore his robes and said Jesus was guilty of what?

14:64 “_____”

To “blaspheme” means to ‘desecrate God or to doubt His power’. How was Jesus guilty of blasphemy?

Who was actually guilty of ‘blasphemy’??

“Political Trial in the Morning” **(15:1-15)**

When was Jesus taken to Pilate?

15:1 very early in the _____ (cf 14:72)

How many people do you think apart from the Sanhedrin were aware of what just happened overnight?

What is Jesus charged with when taken to Pilate?

15:2 "Are You the _____ of the Jews?"

Is that what the Jewish leaders charged Jesus with?

14:61 "Are You the _____?"

Why the difference?

When Pilate asked Jesus if He had nothing to say on His own behalf, how did Pilate respond?

15:5 he was _____

A crowd had gathered [early in the morning!] to make an annual request of Pilate. What was the request?

15:6 to release a _____

Luke 23 records Pilate's conclusion about Jesus. What was it?

23:14-15 he found no _____ for any charges against Jesus

23:22 he found no grounds for the _____ penalty

So he tried to have Jesus released. Why?

Mark 15:9-10 because it was only out of _____ that the Jewish leaders had Him arrested

The religious leaders stirred up the crowd to shout "Crucify Him!" How do you think they did this?

Why did Pilate – who knew Jesus was innocent – release Barabbas {a convicted murderer} instead?

15:15 to _____ the crowd

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