

"Christ's Confession" - Sermon by Senior Pastor, Kevin Flannery



⁵³ They took Jesus to the high priest, and all the chief priests, the elders and the teachers of the law came together. ⁵⁴ Peter followed him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest. There he sat with the guards and warmed himself at the fire.

⁵⁵ The chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin were looking for evidence against Jesus so that they could put him to death, but they did not find any. ⁵⁶ Many testified falsely against him, but their statements did not agree.

⁵⁷ Then some stood up and gave this false testimony against him: ⁵⁸ "We heard him say, 'I will destroy this temple made with human hands and in three days will build another, not made with hands.'" ⁵⁹ Yet even then their testimony did not agree.

⁶⁰ Then the high priest stood up before them and asked Jesus, "Are you not going to answer? What is this testimony that these men are bringing against you?" ⁶¹ But Jesus remained silent and gave no answer.

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

⁶² "I am," said Jesus. "And you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven."

⁶³ The high priest tore his clothes. "Why do we need any more witnesses?" he asked. ⁶⁴ "You have heard the blasphemy. What do you think?"

They all condemned him as worthy of death. ⁶⁵ Then some began to spit at him; they blindfolded him, struck him with their fists, and said, "Prophecy!" And the guards took him and beat him. - Mark 14:53-65

I. Family Ice breaker: Questions???

➤ Have you ever been falsely accused? What was your reaction?

➤ Read Mark 14:53-65 together.

II. Questions & Applications for Discussion with your kids:

Jesus has been arrested. He has been seized under the cover of darkness, after he had prayed at Gethsemane. The disciples fled. But then Peter and John followed Jesus to the Sanhedrin court. All the chief priests, the elders and the teachers of the law were there too. Pastor Kevin told us that the Sanhedrin (*chief priests and the whole council* – verse 55) was the Jewish high court of justice consisting of 71 men and was led by the high priest. The council could decide almost any fate of Jewish people---except the death penalty, which was decided by the Romans. The Sanhedrin was required to hold its hearings in the hall of stones in the temple. However, Jesus was tried in the private residences of Annas and Caiaphas (John 18:13-14).

- A. As you reflectively engaged the Scriptures, what stood out to you from these passages?
- B. Re-read verses 55-59 and note the rampant false testimonies against Jesus. There was also one accusation against Jesus and that too was false:

⁵⁵ The chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin were looking for evidence against Jesus so that they could put him to death, **but they did not find any.** ⁵⁶ Many testified falsely against him, **but their statements did not agree.**

⁵⁷ Then some stood up and gave this **false testimony** against him: ... " ⁵⁸ "We heard him say, 'I will destroy this temple made with human hands and in three days will build another, not made with hands.'" ⁵⁹ **Yet even then their testimony did not agree.** -----

- Jesus responds to false testimonies and accusations with **silence**. “But Jesus remained silent and gave no answer.” Jesus did not defend himself. **What effect did His silence have on the High Priest?**
 - Has there been a time in your life when you have had lies spoken against you or false accusations? How did you feel emotionally? How did you respond internally and how did you respond externally?
- C. Read Isaiah 53:7 out loud. Jesus response of silence to His accusers is a fulfilment of what was prophesied in Isaiah.
- How does this prophesy, fulfilled by Jesus, underscore the importance of a purposeful plan by God to redeem the world’s sin and sorrow through His son?

“He was oppressed and afflicted, yet He did not open his mouth; He was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so He did not open his mouth.” - Isaiah 53:7

Jesus did not need to reply. Everyone knew that no offense had been proved against Jesus.

- D. When Jesus would not answer the false accusations, the chief priest seemed frustrated and asked Jesus: “Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?” **Jesus answer is the first time in the gospel of Mark that Jesus publicly declares His identity.**
- How did Jesus answer lead to His condemnation, arrest, and crucifixion?
 - What is the meaning of Jesus saying: “*And you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on clouds of heaven.*”

Christ's "I AM" admits that He is the Son of God, and then He also calls himself the Son of Man. He further claims, "...sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven," referring to the final judgment when all people shall stand before the throne of God for sentencing.

*Pastor Kevin referred to Psalm 110:1 “The Lord said to my lord, ‘Sit at my right hand’, until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet.” And he also referred to Daniel 7:13-14 - “I looked and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with ‘the clouds of heaven’...He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all nations and peoples of every language worshiped him... and His kingdom is one that will never be destroyed.” **Jesus is boldly claiming a status even higher than the high priest has asked about.***

- E. The high priest was utterly offended. We know this because he tore his clothes, making a point of how offensive was Jesus’s answer. The high priest and the rest of the Sanhedrin condemned Jesus to death. Then they spit on him as a sign of contempt. And then, if that was not enough, they blindfolded him and began to strike him with their fists.
- How did Jesus react?

Application:

Jesus gave us an example of keeping quiet at times and of speaking at other times.
 - What type of situations do you feel you can handle best silently? When is it best for you to speak? What are some examples in your life that you can think of from both speaking and keeping quiet?

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