

Sermon Mark 14: 53-72

Pastor Derrick is taking some well deserved time off. So that means you get the B team this am, We are continuing on our Journey through the gospel according to Mark that will lead us right up to resurrection Sunday.

Today we will be in Mark 14:53-72. If you recall where we left off last week. Jesus was in the Garden of Gethsemane praying when he was arrested. Judas betrayed him with a kiss and the guards arrested him. In today's passage we will see that Jesus is taken before the Jewish ruling body and put on trial for the sole purpose of killing him. We will see Peter deny Christ three times. And we will see Christ's amazing response.

Its very interesting that I am preaching this passage today. Last year when a group of us went to Israel, we visited Caiaphas's house. You can see the very road that our savior walked on as they drug him before this sham court, then you can go inside and see where they would have held his trial and the spit on him, hit him and mocked him. We had a large group of 50 plus and it was common for someone to be asked to be last and make sure everyone was keeping up with the group, on this particular site they asked me to be that guy. Because of that, I was alone as I passed the place where the abuse happened. I stopped, and had a true gut wrenching visceral response as I thought about what they did to My Lord. I was getting angry to point I wanted to punch a guard who lived 2000 years ago. Then this thought came to my mind- Matt, I don't want you to fight my battle, I want your heart, when you read Proverbs 23:26 it says "My son, give me your heart, and let your eyes observe my ways" yes Lord and went and joined the rest of the group. **What happens** when we don't give Christ our heart or we put conditions on it? We will see that in today's passage.

Read Mark 14:53-72

Vs. 53 in your bible the section title may say Jesus faces the Sanhedrin

WHO- are the Sanhedrin- ruling body of 71 men made up of pharisees and saducees, the high priest being a saducee. The sanhedrin were to serve as a court of Jewish law both religious and secular law. They had power, influence, money, and status. Power to convict or release, influence even with Rome, money from families, status- everyone would part ways and yield to them.

WHY- why were they plotting to kill Jesus, they were afraid of losing what their religion had brought them. **So, instead of giving their hearts to the messiah, they put him on trial.**

APP- do we put God and His word on trial to preserve our way of life. Do we let God's word be the standard by which we should live or do we allow the times we live in determine how we should live. My son, give me your heart, and let your eyes observe my ways.

Vs 55-59 Look at the lengths the sanhedrin were willing to go to preserve their way of life. Many of their own rules were broken. 1. No trials at night 2. No trials during a feast 3. Witness for the accused must be present 4. No questions to the witness that would condemn him 5. Probably the biggest rule they broke- Do not bear false witness commandment number 9. Jesus' life proved that he was the messiah. Nicodemus in John 3. States "no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him. The religious leaders knew this, for they knew the word of God, but instead of bearing a truthful witness to who He was, they bore a false witness!

APP- What witness does our life bear for Christ. Just the other day, in bible study, a guy heard this great question and brought it to the group. "If you were put on trial as a follower of Christ,

would there be enough evidence to convict you?" Would my life bear a false testimony of Christ or a truthful testimony of Christ? My son, give me your heart, and let your eyes observe my ways.

Vs. 66-72 Peters denial

Lets first look at vs 27 in this same chapter now read vs 66-72. How can this happen? How can someone see all the miracles, the blind getting sight, the mute speaking, the lame walking, the dead living again. Lets go to Matthew 14:22-33 He looked around and was afraid-fear. He did not trust in the words of Christ "I must be handed over, but I will return." Did Peter realize he was giving God his heart but with conditions, I'm yours as long as it is going well, as long as I feel safe, as long as I'm in control.

APP- Do we put conditions on our relationship with Christ? You can have my heart as long as life is going well, my marriage, work, health? But what about when trials come our way. Do we believe Jesus' words in John 16:33. My son give my your heart, and let your eyes observe my ways.

Lets conclude today with the vs we skipped 60-65

One of the greatest vs for Christians- I am, he is letting everyone know he is Lord, and he will return. This is what we put our trust in. They can spit on him, they can mock him, they can lie about him, and the can curse him, but He is still LORD, and reigning on high, and his promises are all true today, as they are yesterday and as they will be tomorrow.

He promises : salvation is to all who believe
all things work together for good for his children
comfort in our trials
a new life in Christ
every spiritual blessing
finish his work in us
peace when we pray
to supply our needs
rest in the gospel
eternal life
power from on high
he will return

Are you allowing fear to hold you back from giving your whole heart to God? Have you put conditions on your love for God? Do not let fear reign in your life.

I will finish with this story. The other night in a Bible study, a gentlemen did one of the bravest things I have seen in a long time. We are on the topic of sin and man's depravity and how it affects the heart. He came in and completely opened his heart to confess deep dark sins he has been dealing with. He was shaking and wiping away tears. But God was with him and strengthening him through it all. It was a precious moment. Light was shining on the dark. 1 John 1:3-9

My son, give me your heart, and let your eyes observe my ways.