

Text: Matthew 26

⁵⁷ *And those who had laid hold of Jesus led Him away to Caiaphas the high priest, where the scribes and the elders were assembled.*

⁵⁸ *But Peter followed Him at a distance to the high priest's courtyard. And he went in and sat with the servants to see the end.*

⁵⁹ *Now the chief priests, the elders, and all the council sought false testimony against Jesus to put Him to death,*

⁶⁰ *but found none. Even though many false witnesses came forward, they found none. But at last two false witnesses came forward*

⁶¹ *and said, "This fellow said, 'I am able to destroy the temple of God and to build it in three days.' "*

⁶² *And the high priest arose and said to Him, "Do You answer nothing? What is it these men testify against You?"*

⁶³ *But Jesus kept silent. And the high priest answered and said to Him, "I put You under oath by the living God: Tell us if You are the Christ, the Son of God!"*

⁶⁴ *Jesus said to him, "It is as you said. Nevertheless, I say to you, hereafter you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Power, and coming on the clouds of heaven."*

⁶⁵ *Then the high priest tore his clothes, saying, "He has spoken blasphemy! What further need do we have of witnesses? Look, now you have heard His blasphemy!*

⁶⁶ *What do you think?"*

They answered and said, "He is deserving of death."

⁶⁷ *Then they spat in His face and beat Him; and others struck Him with the palms of their hands,*

⁶⁸ *saying, "Prophecy to us, Christ! Who is the one who struck You?"*

Matthew 26:57-68

1. Who was Caiaphas?

a) Full name

Joseph Ben Caiaphas

a) He was the High Priest

He presided over the Sanhedrin Council

He was the head from 18-36 AD

c) Normal leadership years (3 years)

d) His father-in-law was Annas

e) He was from the Sadducees sect

f) He came from a wealthy family

2. The Sanhedrin Council

a) 70 members

b) Makeup of the Sanhedrin Council

i) Scribes

ii) Elders

iii) Chief priests

iv) Influential members who were elected

3. Serious crimes were tried by the Sanhedrin Council

a) Criminal activities

b) Blasphemy

c) Perverse personal lifestyle

4. Witnesses would be needed

a) No witnesses were found

b) Two people offered false statements against the Lord Jesus

5. The accusation

"This fellow said, 'I am able to destroy the temple of God and to build it in three days.' " Matthew 26:61

- a) These words were not exactly what the Lord had said
- b) This was a paraphrase

6. The actual statement

¹⁸ So the Jews answered and said to Him, "What sign do You show to us, since You do these things?"

¹⁹ Jesus answered and said to them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up."

²⁰ Then the Jews 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 of the temple of His body.

²² Therefore, when He had risen from the dead, His disciples remembered that He had said this to them; and they believed the Scripture and the word which Jesus had said.

John 2:18-22

1. The Jews were there
2. They heard what Lord Jesus had said
3. The meaning of the Lord Jesus had been misunderstood
4. The temple was still standing
5. There was no crime committed!

CHOOSING TO BE SILENT

1. The Lord Jesus refused to comment on what was spoken against Him
2. He knew that they would twist His words, no matter what He said
3. His silence caused the High Priest to invoke the name of God

SPEAKING UP

⁶³ *But Jesus kept silent. And the high priest answered and said to Him, "I put You under oath by the living God: Tell us if You are the Christ, the Son of God!"*

⁶⁴ *Jesus said to him, "It is as you said. Nevertheless, I say to you, hereafter you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Power, and coming on the clouds of heaven."*

Matthew 26:63-64

1. I put You under oath by the living God
2. "Tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God?"
3. The Lord's response

Three parts to note:

- a) "It is as you have said!"
- b) "Hereafter you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of God"
- c) "And coming on the clouds of heaven"

THE MOCKING OF THE LORD JESUS

⁶⁵ *Then the high priest tore his clothes, saying, "He has spoken blasphemy! What further need do we have of witnesses? Look, now you have heard His blasphemy!"*

⁶⁶ *What do you think?"*

They answered and said, "He is deserving of death."

⁶⁷ *Then they spat in His face and beat Him; and others struck Him with the palms of their hands,*

⁶⁸ *saying, "Prophecy to us, Christ! Who is the one who struck You?"*

Matthew 26:65-68

1. The Lord was accused of speaking blasphemy
2. The decision: "He is deserving of death"

3. They began to do the unthinkable
 - a) Spitting on the face of the Lord
 - b) Beating Him
 - c) Slapping Him
 - d) Taunting Him
 - e) Mocking Him as the Messiah

LESSONS FOR US TO LEARN

1. Beware the sin of hypocrisy
2. Beware mob thinking
3. May the Lord help us to be like the Lord Jesus
 - a) Longsuffering
 - b) Courageous
 - c) Strong
 - d) Trusting God fully