



Mark 14:43-65

Jesus Arrested

⁴³ Just as he was speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, appeared. With him was a crowd armed with swords and clubs, sent from the chief priests, the teachers of the law, and the elders. ⁴⁴ Now the betrayer had arranged a signal with them: “The one I kiss is the man; arrest him and lead him away under guard.” ⁴⁵ Going at once to Jesus, Judas said, “Rabbi!” and kissed him. ⁴⁶ The men seized Jesus and arrested him. ⁴⁷ Then one of those standing near drew his sword and struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his ear. ⁴⁸ “Am I leading a rebellion,” said Jesus, “that you have come out with swords and clubs to capture me?” ⁴⁹ Every day I was with you, teaching in the temple courts, and you did not arrest me. But the Scriptures must be fulfilled.” ⁵⁰ Then everyone deserted him and fled. ⁵¹ A young man, wearing nothing but a linen garment, was following Jesus. When they seized him, ⁵² he fled naked, leaving his garment behind.

Jesus Before the Sanhedrin

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.

- With a false show of respect and friendship-a kiss-Judas identified Jesus to the band of armed temple officials. **John 18:3 (NASB)** says it was the “Roman cohort,” which consisted of anywhere from three hundred to six hundred soldiers. They would not have expected the willing surrender of a legitimate criminal, much less that of an innocent man who knew they wanted him dead.
- Jesus didn’t resist His arrest but pointed out the irony of the secret late-night mission. Though His response was peaceful. One of the disciples opted for a more violent approach. He cut off the ear of the high priest’s servant.
- In Luke’s account of this story (**Luke 22:49-51**), Jesus not only called for a stop of the violence but doubled down and healed the man’s ear! If Jesus wanted or needing defending, the Father was more than capable, but the fulfillment of Scripture and the eternal plan of salvation was contingent on His willing submission (**Matthew 26:52-54**).

- 1. Review 14:57-58. What was the accusation?**
- 2. Read John 2:19-21. How is what Jesus said different from what He was accused of?**
- 3. What did Jesus mean by His statement?**
 - Under the Romans, destruction of a place of worship was punishable by death. If Jesus had been found guilty of that charge, the religious leaders would have been cleared to kill Him. But even in their earnest attempts, they couldn't get the false accusations to line up.
 - In the face of being wrongly accused, Jesus didn't lash back at His attackers or try to make His own case for innocence. He remained silent forgoing even the slightest defense-a perfect picture of **Isaiah 53:7**.
- 4. When you experience mistreatment or injustice, what is your initial response?**
- 5. Read 1 Peter 2:18-24. How does this passage demonstrate the response of Jesus and challenge cultural norms. How are you personally challenged?**
- 6. Why did the high priest accuse Jesus of blasphemy for His declaration in 14:62?**
- 7. If you know people who reject Jesus as God, how can you try to better understand what led them to their conclusion? What questions might be helpful to ask them?**

Mark 14:66-72

Peter Disowns Jesus

⁶⁶ While Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant girls of the high priest came by. ⁶⁷ When she saw Peter warming himself, she looked closely at him. “You also were with that Nazarene, Jesus,” she said. ⁶⁸ But he denied it. “I don’t know or understand what you’re talking about,” he said, and went out into the entryway. ⁶⁹ When the servant girl saw him there, she said again to those standing around, “This fellow is one of them.” ⁷⁰ Again he denied it. After a little while, those standing near said to Peter, “Surely you are one of them, for you are a Galilean.” ⁷¹ He began to call down curses, and he swore to them, “I don’t know this man you’re talking about.” ⁷² Immediately the rooster crowed the second time. Then Peter remembered the word Jesus had spoken to him: “Before the rooster crows twice you will disown me three times.” And he broke down and wept.

- 1. In Peter's first/second/third denials, who is doing the accusing? What is the accusation? How does Peter respond?**
 - 2. Peter's third denial of Jesus in 14:71 included shockingly strong language. What does it mean that "he began to call down curses and he swore to them?"**
- **Jesus had walked closely with Peter for several years. Peter was one of the first disciples called and part of the circle of three men whom Jesus often gave more focus and attention and allowed into specific experiences.**
 - **Peter was often the first to make a bold profession or take a step out in faith, but we also know he messed up in major ways. His flesh was weak, and his faith was imperfect. Through it all, Jesus was committed to the process of building him up in understanding of and dependence on Himself as the object of his faith. And the occasion of his denial was no different.**
 - **When Peter denied Jesus, he was brought back to an acute awareness of just how spiritually poor he was, but his failure did not have the final word. Jesus had already prepared the way for his restoration and continued purpose and had spoken about it even before he fell away.**

Mark 15:1-15

15 Very early in the morning, the chief priests, with the elders, the teachers of the law and the whole Sanhedrin, made their plans. So, they bound Jesus, led him away and handed him over to Pilate. ² “Are you the king of the Jews?” asked Pilate. “You have said so,” Jesus replied. ³ The chief priests accused him of many things. ⁴ So again Pilate asked him, “Aren’t you going to answer? See how many things they are accusing you of.” ⁵ But Jesus still made no reply, and Pilate was amazed. ⁶ Now it was the custom at the festival to release a prisoner whom the people requested. ⁷ A man called Barabbas was in prison with the insurrectionists who had committed murder in the uprising. ⁸ The crowd came up and asked Pilate to do for them what he usually did. ⁹ “Do you want me to release to you the king of the Jews?” asked Pilate, ¹⁰ knowing it was out of self-interest that the chief priests had handed Jesus over to him. ¹¹ But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have Pilate release Barabbas instead. ¹² “What shall I do, then, with the one you call the king of the Jews?” Pilate asked them. ¹³ “Crucify him!” they shouted. ¹⁴ “Why? What crime has he committed?” asked Pilate. But they shouted all the louder, “Crucify him!” ¹⁵ Wanting to satisfy the crowd, Pilate released Barabbas to them. He had Jesus flogged and handed him over to be crucified.

1. Why might the Jewish leaders have presented Jesus as the “King of the Jews” as Jesus’s charge before Pilate?
2. Read Isaiah 53:7. How does Jesus’s response in 15:5 show a fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy?
3. Using your favorite Bible study tool, look up the meaning of Barabbas’s name. <https://biblehub.com/topical/b/barabbas.htm>
4. Use a Bible dictionary to define *flogged*.
<https://biblehub.com/topical/f/flog.htm>
5. Pause to think about what Jesus endured on your behalf. Offer a short prayer of gratitude for His great love and His willing submission.