

“How To Infuriate the Enemy” Mark 14: 53-65 (Matt 26: 57-68 / [Luke 22: 66-71])

THE TEXT

- 53 And they led Jesus away to the high priest; and all the chief priests and the elders and the scribes gathered together.
- 54 And Peter had followed Him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest; and he was sitting with the officers and warming himself at the fire.
- 55 Now the chief priests and the whole Council kept trying to obtain testimony against Jesus to put Him to death, and they were finding none.
- 56 For many were giving false testimony against Him, and *yet* their testimony was not consistent.
- 57 And some stood up and *began* to give false testimony against Him, saying,
- 58 "We heard Him say, 'I will destroy this temple made with hands, and in three days I will build another made without hands.'"
- 59 And not even in this respect was their testimony consistent.
- 60 And the high priest arose *and came* forward and questioned Jesus, saying, "Do You make no answer to what these men are testifying against You?"
- 61 But He kept silent and made no answer. Again, the high priest was questioning Him, and saying to Him, "Are You the Christ, the Son of the Blessed One?"
- 62 **And Jesus said, "I am; and you shall see THE SON OF MAN SITTING AT THE RIGHT HAND OF POWER, and COMING WITH THE CLOUDS OF HEAVEN."** [Ps. 110:1; Dan. 7:15]
- 63 And tearing his clothes, the high priest said, "What further need do we have of witnesses?"
- 64 "You have heard the blasphemy; how does it seem to you?" And they all condemned Him to be deserving of death.
- 65 And some began to spit at Him, and to blindfold Him, and to beat Him with their fists, and to say to Him, "Prophecy!" And the officers received Him with slaps *in the face*.

The Parallel Matthew passages

- √ emphasizes the leaders tried to obtain false testimony (v.59)
- √ Caiaphas wants Jesus' answer to be by an oath "by the living God" (v.63)
- √ Jesus answers "You have said it" rather than "I am" – Mark's account is stronger here

Luke's similar passage – later, when it was daybreak, before the “official” Sanhedrin

Luke 22:70 And they all said, “Are you the Son of God, then?” And He said to them, “Yes I am.”

6 TRIALS Thurs. pm and Fri. am (or 2 trials (Ecclesiastical and Civil – each in 3 parts)

1. ANNAS (father-in-law of Caiaphas) John 18:12ff (unique)
[Jesus questioned, Annas strikes Him, He is sent to Caiaphas]
2. CAIAPHUS (Sanhedrin at night) Mk 14:53ff, Mt. 26:57ff, Lk 22:54 & Jn 18:24 (implied)

3. SANHEDRIN (Fri. am) Mat. 27:1,2; Mk 15:1; Lk 22:63ff; Jn. 18:24

["Are you the son of God?" "Yes, I am"]

4. PILATE Mt 27:11-14; Mk. 15:2-5; Lk.23:8-12; Jn. 18:28ff ["Are you King of the Jews?"]

5. HEROD Lk. 23:13-25 (unique) [questions Jesus, but Jesus is silent]

6. PILATE w/Barabbus Mt. 27:15ff; Mk. 15:6ff; Lk 23:13ff; Jn. 18:38ff ["crucify Him!"]

JESUS' RESPONSE

THE O.T. VERSES FROM WHICH JESUS' WORDS COME

Psalm 110:1 The Lord [Jehovah] says to my Lord [Adonai] "Sit at My right hand, until I make Thine enemies a footstool for Thy feet.

Daniel 7:13 I kept looking in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven One like a Son of Man was coming . . . [1st Scriptural mention of the "Son of Man" – Jesus' favorite name for Himself in the N.T.]

"I AM" - Jesus' affirmations of being the "I AM" in John

1. To the Samaritan woman at the well – "I who speak to you am (He)" Jn. 4:26
2. After the feeding of the 5000 - "I am the bread of life" - Jn. 6:35
3. At the feast of Tabernacles (lights) - "I am the light of the world" - Jn. 8:12
4. To the religious leaders in the temple - "Before Abraham was born, I AM" – Jn. 8:58
5. In the parable of the good shepherd – "I am the door of the sheep" and "I am the good shepherd" – Jn. 10:9, 11
6. To Martha, before raising her brother Lazarus from the dead – "I am the resurrection and the life" - Jn. 11:25
7. To Thomas and the other disciples in the upper room – "I am the way, and the truth, and the life" - Jn. 14:6
8. In the upper room, following the institution of communion - "I am the vine" - Jn. 15:5
9. In the Garden in response to whom the Romans and Jews sought – "I am (He)" – Jn. 18:5
(after which they all fell to the ground)

THE ENEMY'S RESPONSE (through Caiaphus)

SATAN (the Devil)

1. Hates mankind – made in the image of God
2. Hates Christians especially – adopted sons of God, the Spirit dwelling within
3. Hates all goodness – coming from God
4. Hates prophecy of Satan's fall

BUT ESPECIALLY

5. Hates GOD – the I AM

We most infuriate the enemy when we stand up for Jesus as GOD – the great I AM

And Jesus infuriated the enemy within Caiaphus when he claimed to be that I AM

- Caiaphus:
- a) tore his clothes (theatrics of hatred)
 - b) ended the “trial” (no more need for witnesses)
 - c) counted Jesus’ words as blasphemy (claiming to be God)
 - d) condemned him worthy of death
 - e) first recorded physical abuse: spitting, blindfolding, beating, “prophecy!”

1 Peter 5:8

- 1. adversary – enemy of all that’s right
- 2. devil – a real spirit being; “diabolos” = slanderer, accuser
- 3. prowls – sneaky, active, deceptive
- 4. roaring – dangerous, ferocious, noisy
- 5. lion – master of disguises, imitator of Jesus, king of his kingdom
- 6. seeking – watching for a weakness; watching for a move toward Jesus
- 7. someone – no respecter of persons or spiritual condition
- 8. devour – bent on destruction and consumption and rendering ineffective for God

OUR RESPONSE

Our greatest stand for Jesus is to believe and proclaim Him to be the Son of God, Messiah = Jehovah God Himself. It is also the greatest proof our faith.

Thus, John declares in 1 John:

v. 4:15 Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God.

v. 5:1 Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God . . .

Expect that when you take your stand for Jesus as the I AM you will infuriate the enemy and invite spiritual persecution.