

## **The Trial of Jesus (Mark 14:53-65)**

- Mark's Gospel displays such Wisdom of the Spirit contrasting Jesus with Peter
- No coincidence: failure of Peter is contrasted with steadfastness the Son of man
- Mark: note, Peter (54) then Jesus' unflinching stand (55-65) Peter's failure (66-72)
- There's a contrast with Christ the Rock, spiritual Rock for Israel, Rock of Church
- The other rock is Peter, so named by Christ, for the moment he is crumbling
- Crumbling as a result of being identified as one of Jesus' followers

### **I. Jesus Is Denounced By His Foes (14:53-54)**

- Jesus underwent two trials before crucifixion: a) Ecclesiastical trial b) Civil trial
- 3 stages of ecclesiastical trial: a) preliminary trial before Annas (Jn 8:12, 19-23)
- b) Trial before Sanhedrin, High priests, chief priests, elders & scribes (14:53-65)
- d) Trial before the same body just after day break (Mark 15:1)
- 3 stages of civil trial: a) before Pilate b) before Herod, c) Pilate again (Lk 23:6-12)
- Mark brings us in at the trial before the Sanhedrin the first time (Mark 14:53)
- Full assembly of the Sanhedrin was gathered, only the legal trappings of trial
- Peter has managed to get into the Chief priests' courtyard, very dangerous (54)
- He is warming himself by the fire, his face is well known (cut off Malchus' ear)
- Vs 55, 56, chief priests & council, seeking testimony against Jesus with no success
- Mark: some witness came forward, but their testimony was contradictory (57-59)
- Embarrassed & furious Caiaphas: have you no answer...this is blasphemy (60)
- In regal silence Jesus did not respond to the contradictory testimony (61; Isa 53:7)
- Caiaphas at wits end & growing more frustrated put Jesus under oath (Matt 26:63)
- Caiaphas 2 questions: 1) Are you the Messiah? 2) are you the blessed One (God)?
- Jesus did not need to answer, but now was the time to testify to who He was (62)
- Jesus' statement: both confession & terrible warning (Is 52:8; Ps 110:1 Dan 7:13)
- Jesus is saying, "You are judging me, but I will judge you in due course"
- The high priest shows his hypocrisy by his contrived horror at Jesus' words (64)

### **II. Jesus Assaulted by the Sanhedrin (14:65)**

- The Sanhedrin now show their cruel hatred & malice by hitting Jesus with fists
- Jesus remains calm in the face of their hatred, fear & restlessness
- Those who trust Him in the face of evil know peace in deep trials (Matt 11:27-30)