

Palm Sunday – 2024

Saturday, 3/23 at 4:00 & Sunday, 3/24 at 9:00



The Holy Week Journey

Jesus Before
the Council
Peter Denies
Jesus

Based on the Booklet
Days 30-32

Text: Mark 14:53-72 NAS-95

Holy Week: Th 11 & 7; Fr 11 & 7; Sa 4 | Easter: 9 (breakfast 10:30)

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ:

- I'm here to tell you that powerful people hate **one person** so much *that they have decided to murder him!*
- They should *presume him innocent until proven guilty*, but, *instead*, they are doing everything possible to manipulate the system by ♦conspiring secretly, ♦paying bribes, ♦perverting the truth in the courtroom, and ♦twisting the truth to the public.
- The powerful people want the public ♦to side with them, ♦to hate the one they hate, and ♦to approve of their murderous plot.
- What will be the outcome? Will truth and justice prevail, **or** will the masses follow the evil liars to their own eventual destruction?

Let's see what happens as we return to The Holy Week Journey. This is sermon **11 of 14**. ♦It's Good Friday, ♦it's the middle of the night, and ♦Jesus has just been arrested.

Day 30 (Tu, 3/19) – Jesus Before the Council – Part 1: 14:53

They led Jesus away to the high priest; and all the chief priests and the elders and the scribes gathered together. // From other gospel accounts, we know that Jesus was **first** taken **to** Annas, the former high priest, **second** **to** Caiaphas, the current high priest, and **third** **before** the Jewish council, also known as *the Sanhedrin*.

⁵⁴ Peter had followed [Jesus] at a distance [and because he was with John, who knew the high priest (John 18:15-16), they went], right into the courtyard of the high priest; and [Peter] 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 not finding any. ⁵⁶ For many were giving false testimony against Him, but their testimony was not consistent. // The Jewish leaders had already decided to murder Jesus, *they were just trying to make it look legit* – even though it was **totally illegit**, **thoroughly selfish**, and **absolutely evil**!

⁵⁷ Some stood up and *began* to give false testimony against [Jesus], 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 Not even in this respect was their testimony consistent. // Two things: **(1)** When Jesus said “*destroy*” and “*build*” He was referring to His body – *you can murder Me, but God will raise Me!* **(2)** Two consistent witnesses were required for the death penalty (Deut. 17:6), *but the false witnesses could not even properly agree*.

Day 31 (We, 3/20) – Jesus Before the Council – Part 2: 14:60

The high priest stood up *and came* forward and questioned Jesus, saying, “Do You not answer? What is it that these men

are testifying against You?” ⁶¹ But [Jesus] kept silent and did not answer [to fulfill the Isaiah 53:7 prophecy]. Again the high priest was questioning [Jesus], 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.” // Jesus was saying: Realize this, you are judging me falsely, but, one day, *I will come **in all My power and glory, and YOU will be under MY judgment!***

⁶³ 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?” // What blasphemy? Jesus confessed that **He is THE CHRIST**, which was true – *but the wickedness of the Jewish leaders blinded them to the truth!* What does the Bible say? “...all will be condemned who have not believed the truth but have delighted in wickedness” (2 Thess. 2:12 NIV). *That is true for people of all time!*

^{64b} And they all condemned Him to be deserving of death [because He said He was the Christ]. ⁶⁵ 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*. // Think: Jesus suffered and died – *even for all the ones who verbally and physically abused Him!*

Day 32 (Th, 3/21) – Peter Denies Jesus: [See the [3/16 sermon](#) to learn about Jesus’ prediction of Peter’s denial.] **14:66** As Peter was below in the courtyard [of the high priest], one of the servant-girls of the high priest came, ⁶⁷ and seeing Peter warming himself, she looked at him and said, “You also were with Jesus the Nazarene.” ⁶⁸ But he denied *it*, saying, “**I neither know nor understand what you are talking about.**” And he went out onto the porch, and a rooster crowed. //

Remember what Jesus told Peter: “...**before** a rooster crows **twice**, you yourself will deny Me **three times**” (14:30). So far, *one denial* and *one rooster crow*.

⁶⁹ The servant-girl saw him, and began once more to say to the bystanders, “This is *one of them!*” ⁷⁰ But again **he denied it.** // That was the *second denial*.

And after a little while the bystanders were again saying to Peter, “Surely you are *one of them*, for you are a Galilean *too.*” ⁷¹ But he began to curse and swear, “**I do not know this man you are talking about!**” ⁷² Immediately a rooster crowed a second time. And Peter remembered how Jesus had made the remark to him, “**Before a rooster crows twice, you will deny Me three times.**” And he began to weep.

- Confessing Jesus is critical: ^{NAS} **Matt. 10:33** [*Jesus:*] “...whoever shall deny Me before men, I will also deny him before My Father who is in heaven.” **2 Tim. 2:11** [*Paul:*] “If we deny [Jesus], He also will deny us...”
- What have we vowed as Lutherans? “...to live according to the Word of God, and in faith, word, and deed to remain true to God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, **even to death...**” // ***Faith, word, deed, death!***
- The right attitude: ^{NIV} **Hebrews 10:39** “...we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who believe and are saved.”

Holy Thursday: Jesus **to** Pilate, **to** be crucified, and **is** mocked!

Let Us Pray: Dear Lord Jesus, You are the Christ, the Holy One of God, and we trust in You! *Help us to always confess You!*

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