

Mrk53 – Jesus Versus Religion – Mark 14:53-65

When I use the word Religion today

I am **NOT Talking** about us having a **Genuine Faith & Trust** in God
& having a **Real Personal Relationship** with Jesus Christ

& I am **NOT Talking** about – a **Commitment** to use **God's Word**
as our **ONLY RULE & GUIDE** of **Faith**

What **I AM** talking **about**
Is a **tendency** - we **MAY HAVE**

To **have** more **confidence** – in our **RELIGION**
than in a **Real SAVING RELATIONSHIP** with **Jesus** Christ

What we see in our text today

is **Religious Leaders**
USING their **Religion system**

to **REMOVE Jesus** Christ
From having **any impact ON** their **LIVES**

& I **think** we **have** to be **careful**
NOT to **say** to **ourselves**

well, that was Those BAD Jewish Religious Leaders

& they just wanted Jesus Dead

because they didn't want to DEAL with
His CLAIMS – or His TEACHINGS

But – Can we maybe see in ourselves
the Possibility of US - Using OUR RELIGION

For US to avoid Dealing Directly with
the Claims & Teachings of Jesus Christ?

THAT IS the subject - that is on display in our text today

Let's Pray

We last left Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane

The Temple Guards were arresting Jesus
& ALL of the Disciples were RUNNING AWAY

& so Jesus is ALONE

As he is taking the final steps - to Conquer Sin & Death
thru the Cross & Resurrection

& as the Religious Leaders were taking the final steps
to REMOVE Jesus – from their Lives

We pick it up – just after the Arrest

Mark 14:53 (NLT)

53 They took Jesus to the high priest's home where the leading priests, the elders, and the teachers of religious law had gathered.

**This is the Sanhedrin – The HIGH COURT
of the Jewish Religious System**

**Gathered at Night, in the High Priest's home
ALL of which was Illegal - according to the law of Moses**

There WAS a Religious Judicial System
That WAS developed BY GOD - & given THRU Moses

BUT – this Religious HIGH COURT

**DID NOT FOLLOW ONE THING – that Moses
had commanded for a fair trial**

**There are SO MANY Illegal things
about to happen in this FARCE of a Trial**

that it would take all my time just to list them

**EVERY single THING - these Religious Leaders are about to do
is CONTRARY (Contradictory) – to God's Written Word**

**& they are the SUPREME COURT
of the Jewish Religious Law**

BUT – Jesus didn't fit into their plans

HIS Claims & His Teachings

didn't support they're AUTHORITY or their CONTROL

& so – in the name of their RELIGIOUS SYSTEM

they were going to REMOVE Jesus

from having any IMPACT on their LIVES. . . (or so they thought)

The **Upper Level** – of the **Religious System** in that day

WAS Entirely CORRUPT

& we get a glimpse of that

over in JOHN CH 18

MARK focuses on the Illegal Sanhedrin Trial

But **JOHN takes** us **First** – to the **home** of – **THE GODFATHER**

John 18:12–13 (NLT)

12 So the soldiers, their commanding officer, and the Temple guards arrested Jesus and tied him up.

13 First they took him to Annas, since he was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, the high priest at that time.

Is it NORMAL - to take a prisoner

to the house of the FATHER-IN-LAW of the High Priest

in the middle of the night

WHILE the Sanhedrin is illegally gathering?

NO – it is **NOT NORMAL**

this is a **Scene right out** of the **Godfather movie**

ANNAS was the **Power behind** the **throne** of the **High Priest**

He had **BEEN High Priest**

& **had** started a **Racketeering System**

that his **Family** had **HELD** onto for **FIVE High-Priests**

That **Racketeering System** was **CALLED** – **The Bazaar of ANNAS**

& it **operating WITHIN** the **Temple** courts

To **TAKE** Truckloads of **Money** – from simple **worshippers**

& Jesus had **ATTACKED** the **Religious System**

that **ANNAS** was the Godfather of

& had **TWICE** Ran his **GOONS Out** of the **Temple** Courts

where they were doing their **“Business”**

& **ANNAS** was **trying**

to **fabricate** an **INDICTMENT** against Jesus

SO that the **RELIGIOUS HIGH COURT**

could have **something**

to **find Jesus GUILTY OF** - **Worthy of Death**

BUT – ANNAS couldn't INDICT Jesus on any charge

**so he just sends Jesus on
to the house of Caiaphas (current High Priest)**

**where the Sanhedrin
(& the Mock Trial) was waiting**

**Knowing they would find a way
to "Take Care" of this little problem named Jesus**

So - **Back** in the **Mark's Gospel**

In **V. 54** Mark just **wants**
to **PLACE PETER** in the **middle** of all this

Mark 14:54 (NLT)

54 Meanwhile, Peter followed him (Jesus) at a distance and went right into the high priest's courtyard. There he sat with the guards, warming himself by the fire.

**We'll come back to Peter
& His DENIAL of the Lord - Next week**

**Because Mark "Sandwiches" It
between the TWO "Mock Trials"**

So now we're INSIDE the home of the High Priest
with an Illegal Religious Trial about to begin

BUT – Listen please

THIS is the Real Point Today

We are about to SEE – These men
USE their Religious System

to REMOVE JESUS
from having ANY Impact on their Lives

Let me say it another way

We're about to see a PICTURE
of how a Religious System is USED

to REMOVE Jesus – FROM the Religious System
that is supposed to be ALL ABOUT Jesus

Mark 14:55 (NLT)

55 Inside, the leading priests and the entire high council were trying to find evidence against Jesus, so they could put him to death. But they couldn't find any.

The SENTENCE was already in place

They were going to REMOVE Jesus
from their Lives - & from their Religious System

Because the one thing the Religious Council KNEW

**was that Jesus was BAD
for the "Business of Religion"**

**& they knew
that if the people started actually following Jesus**

it **would mean a loss of both
their Power over the people - & their Money**

**& believe me when I tell you
They are NOT the LAST Religious System to have that fear**

**& so – they PAID false witnesses – with the Temple Treasury
Money for sure (same money used to pay Judas Iscariot)**

**But - the paid false witnesses
didn't have time to get their stories straight**

Mark 14:56-59 (NLT)

56 Many false witnesses spoke against him, but they contradicted each other.

57 Finally, some men stood up and gave this false testimony:

58 "We heard him say, 'I will destroy this Temple made with human hands, and in three days I will build another, made without human hands.' " (a twisting of what Jesus actually said)

59 But even then they didn't get their stories straight!

**Guys - This is just RELIGIOUS THEATER
the outcome is already decided**

**They're going to REMOVE Jesus
from having ANY impact**

**on their Religious System
& Their Lives - no matter what**

It doesn't matter if anything is LEGAL – or GODLY

**This has GOT to be done
for the Good of the Religious System**

Mark 14:60-61(a) (NLT)

60 Then the high priest stood up before the others and asked Jesus, “Well, aren’t you going to answer these charges? What do you have to say for yourself?”

61 But Jesus was silent and made no reply . . .

THIS was a DEAFENING Silence

GOD Incarnate – was about to be KILLED

**BY the Religious System
THAT HE was supposed to be the CENTER of**

BUT - Jesus knew Exactly - WHAT was Going to happen

**& so – The WORD Made Flesh – God In Communication –
THE LOGOS . . . was SILENT!**

Isaiah 53:7 (NLT)

7 He was oppressed and treated harshly, yet he never said a word. He was led like a lamb to the slaughter. And as a sheep is silent before the shearers, he did not open his mouth.

Until the High Priest - Asked the RIGHT Question

Mark 14:61(b) (NLT)

61 . . . Then the high priest asked him, “Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?”

This is the FIRST Legitimate Question

This is NOT an ENTRAPMENT QUESTION

This is a WHO ARE YOU Question

**Jesus knew the INTENT of the question
Was to bring a Blasphemy charge**

But – **Jesus** had already **TOLD** them **Numerous TIMES**
in **Numerous WAYS**

& **he** had **PROVED it over** & **over again**

That He IS the Messiah

He IS the Son of God

He & the Father ARE ONE

& so – Jesus ANSWERS the question

& he Answers it with EVEN MORE of a
DRAMATIC IMPACT - than his previous SILENCE had

Mark 14:62(a) (NLT)

62 Jesus said, “I Am . . .”

“I AM” – The “(eggo a-me) EGO EIMI” - The Tetragrammaton

The Name that Became YAHWEH

The Eternally Existing One – the All-in-All God – “I AM”

I’m surprised the entire Sanhedrin
didn’t FALL BACK on the floor when he said it

Jesus said, “I AM” - & then he added to it

Mark 14:62(b) (NLT)

62 . . . “And you will see the Son of Man seated in the place of power at God’s right hand and coming on the clouds of heaven.”

Jesus sees PAST the Cross
to His THRONE at God’s Right Hand

& to his RETURN to RULE & REIGN
on Earth for the Millennium

& So - Jesus says YES, I AM the MESSIAH
I AM - The Son of God

& Jesus KNEW exactly what the response was going to be

He had PROPHESED it many times

& he had made it perfectly clear to his disciples

& it went - Just as it NEEDED to Go

In order for Jesus

to MAKE his Appointment with the Cross

So that he could pay for OUR sins

& Freely Offer us - HIS Righteousness in Exchange

So that "By FAITH In Christ Alone"

we could have an Assured Entrance into heaven

& so the First "Mockery of a Trial" ends

With the verdict of Blasphemy

Mark 14:63-64 (NLT)

63 *Then the high priest tore his clothing to show his horror (at the supposed blasphemy) and said, "Why do we need other witnesses?*

64 *You have all heard his blasphemy. What is your verdict?"*

"Guilty!" they all cried. "He deserves to die!"

& ALL of this has been Completely Illegal,

& contrary to the Law of Moses

But then – the **BLACKNESS** of the **SIN**
Of those who RAN this **Religious System** – is **really exposed**

Mark 14:65 (NLT)

65 Then some of them (the Highest Religious Leaders) ***began to spit at him*** (the most demeaning insult), ***and they*** (the Sanhedrin) ***blindfolded him and beat him with their fists. “Prophecy to us,” they jeered. And the guards*** (who they turned Jesus over to) ***slapped him as they took him away.***

(again from) Isaiah 53:3–6 (NLT)

3 He was despised and rejected— a man of sorrows, acquainted with deepest grief. We turned our backs on him and looked the other way (maybe to our religion). ***He was despised, and we did not care.***

4 Yet it was our weaknesses he carried; it was our sorrows that weighed him down . . .

5 But he was pierced for our rebellion, crushed for our sins. He was beaten so we could be whole. He was whipped so we could be healed.

6 All of us, like sheep, have strayed away. We have left God’s paths to follow our own. Yet the Lord laid on him the sins of us all.

For these Religious Leaders –
Their Religion was treating them WELL

They didn't NEED
the Radical Claims and Teachings of Jesus

TO MESS UP the good thing
they had going with their RELIGION

& can I tell you please
THEY AREN'T the Only Ones

Some of US – feel just FINE with our RELIGION

& we don't want Jesus coming into our lives
with his Radical Claims & Teachings

& MESSING UP the good thing
we have going with our Religion

BUT - Hebrews 6:6 says (NLT)

6 . . . by rejecting the Son of God, they themselves are nailing him to the cross once again and holding him up to public shame.

Don't REJECT the Son of God
For the sake of your Religion

**Jesus Christ Died in Your Place -
to Pay for YOUR Sins**

**He took the Full Wrath of God
That YOUR SINS deserved**

**So that You could freely enter Heaven
In HIS Righteousness**

**BY you putting your Full Faith in Him
As your Savior & your Lord**

**Don't ever Trade that
For some Religious System**

Let's Pray