

## The Great Physician

### Luke 22:54-71

- Jesus has been arrested and everything He said would happen has begun to play itself out just as He said it would for the past three years and most recently at the last supper. Now we will see the details of how these things affected those closest to Jesus namely the disciples. When bad things happen to us the tendency is to think that this surely is meant to destroy me, but sometimes God allows these things into our lives not to destroy us, but to cause us to depend more on Him and less on ourselves, this is especially true for Peter.

#### V54-71

- **V54-56** to his credit unlike the rest of the disciples who ran and hid Peter follows at a distance, **Jn 18:16** says another disciple (most believe it was John) who the high Priest knows, was allowed inside the courtyard spoke to one of the servant girls and she let him inside. Jesus endured six different trials, three by the Jews and three by the Romans, this is the first, as He is led to Annas the former High Priest, afterward Annas will send Him to Caiaphas his son in Law, who was the official High Priest, and finally at day break He will be tried by the Sanhedrin and found guilty.
- As Peter and John are following the mob you can believe all kinds of thoughts are going across their minds, usually when people are in danger the first thought is self preservation, and yet we see them although at a distance still attempting to follow Jesus, it took great courage to do this. It's a chilly night, and by now Peter is becoming cold, not just physically but spiritually also, as he is found warming his hands at the enemy's fires, the people out there are the guards and the servants of the High Priest, and by now word is beginning to spread that Jesus has been arrested
- As he's finding warmth around their fire a servant girl started to stare at him, believing she recognizes him as one of Jesus followers. Isn't this just like enemy, he will entice you when your feeling down, afraid and cold, invite you into his company, make you feel at home, and when he gets you comfortable boom, he exposes you for all to see. Peter was just looking to blend in, look and act like everyone else, but somehow, he stood out, and the servant girl recognized him.
- **V57-60** in this **first denial** notice Peter denies "**knowing the Lord**", the **second denial** Peter denies being "**a follower of Jesus**" as they asked "you also are of them" talking about the disciples, and in the **third denial** Peter denied "**that he was even from Galilee**". Luke doesn't go into this and whether he knew about it and left it out we won't know until glory, but **Math 26:73-74** says the accusers told Peter that he even sounded Galilean and he began to switch up his words and started to curse and swear to distance himself from association with Jesus.
- Never forget this that the enemy doesn't just want to make you uncomfortable in following Jesus, he wants to embarrass us to the point that we are afraid to even speak out that we know **Him, follow Him, or identify with those who call themselves by His Name**. After the third denial that's when the rooster crowed just as Jesus told him it would.

- Now this is what Peter was so adamant about when he boasted to Jesus even if all the others denied Him he would never deny the Lord, this is the sifting Jesus was speaking of in **Lk 22:31**. What he needed to remember was Jesus also said that He had prayed for him and that he would be restored and when he is go and strengthen his brothers.
- **V61-62** but when he saw the face of the Lord right when he had denied Him the third time all he could remember was his boasting that he would never do anything like this and he ran out of there and wept bitterly. While the crowd was watching Jesus as He's being led away, Peter slipped off and began to cry uncontrollably as his heart was broken. This was the beginning of repentance for Peter who before this was full of pride, to his credit all the Lord had to do was look at him to bring him to the place of brokenness, sadly others take a lot more.
- **V63-65** Jesus had not yet been officially declared guilty and yet the soldiers were permitted to mock and beat Him, scripture says they beat Him all night so much so that **Is 52:14** says Jesus ceased to look like a man, as his physical form and face became so disfigured. They mock Jesus telling Him to prophesy as they hit and slapped Him, and if that wasn't enough both Mathew and Mark include that they also spat in His face to add insult.
- **V66-67** now Jesus is brought before the Sanhedrin, the largest and most influential of religious groups, and they want to know "**if He was The Christ**", Jesus response is interesting, as He says "**If I tell you, you will by no means believe**". Jesus knew the hearts of His accusers, how their unbelief, and intellectual dishonesty, has caused them to already reject all the evidence of the last three years. Make no mistake every spiritual attack begins with diminishing who Jesus is, as their goal is to discredit Jesus so the people look to them as the spiritual authority in Israel.
- **V68-71** Jesus goes on to say you have made up your minds about Me, so go on and do what you brought Me here to do, for the Son of Man will sit on the Right Hand of the Power of God. When they heard that they thought we got Him now, are You saying "**You Are the Son of God**", Son of means just like, it doesn't mean what we define son as, which is like or a little someone, it means equal to. They understood Jesus as saying He is God, and Jesus tells them "**you rightly say that I Am**". Once they hear that they declare Jesus as guilty, and don't need anymore testimony.