

**Sermon Title:** Hope in False Accusations

**Sermon Series:** Easter – The Road to Hope

**Scripture:** Mark 14:53-56, 15:1-15

**Speaker:** Pastor Ian Bonthron



## Has someone ever lied about you?

*“When our response comes, it’s often part and parcel with what has just been dealt to us. If it was anger, we respond in anger. If criticism, we respond with criticism of our own. If accusation, we respond with defensiveness. Whatever the case, we respond in kind.”*

—Michael Kelley – <https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/how-would-jesus-respond-online>

**How do we respond to \_\_\_\_\_ accusations?**

### **Mark 14:53-65 ESV**

53 And they led Jesus to the high priest. And all the chief priests and the elders and the scribes came together. 54 And Peter had followed him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest. And he was sitting with the guards and warming himself at the fire. 55 Now the chief priests and the whole council were seeking testimony against Jesus to put him to death, but they found none. 56 For many bore false witness against him, but their testimony did not agree. 57 And some stood up and bore false witness against him, saying, 58 “We heard him say, ‘I will destroy this temple that is made with hands, and in three days I will build another, not made with hands.’” 59 Yet even about this their testimony did not agree. 60 And the high priest stood up in the midst and asked Jesus, “Have you no answer to make? What is it that these men testify against you?” 61 But he remained silent and made no answer. Again the high priest asked him, “Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?” 62 And Jesus said, “I am, and you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power, and coming with the clouds of heaven.” 63 And the high priest tore his garments and said, “What further witnesses do we need? 64 You have heard his blasphemy. What is your decision?” And they all condemned him as deserving death. 65 And some began to spit on him and to cover his face and to strike him, saying to him, “Prophecy!” And the guards received him with blows.

### Mark 15:1-15 ESV

15 And as soon as it was morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council. And they bound Jesus and led him away and delivered him over to Pilate. 2 And Pilate asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" And he answered him, "You have said so." 3 And the chief priests accused him of many things. 4 And Pilate again asked him, "Have you no answer to make? See how many charges they bring against you." 5 But Jesus made no further answer, so that Pilate was amazed.

6 Now at the feast he used to release for them one prisoner for whom they asked. 7 And among the rebels in prison, who had committed murder in the insurrection, there was a man called Barabbas. 8 And the crowd came up and began to ask Pilate to do as he usually did for them. 9 And he answered them, saying, "Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?" 10 For he perceived that it was out of envy that the chief priests had delivered him up. 11 But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release for them Barabbas instead. 12 And Pilate again said to them, "Then what shall I do with the man you call the King of the Jews?" 13 And they cried out again, "Crucify him." 14 And Pilate said to them, "Why? What evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "Crucify him." 15 So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released for them Barabbas, and having scourged Jesus, he delivered him to be crucified.

### Understanding False Accusations

#### Mark 14:55-57 ESV

55 Now the chief priests and the whole council were seeking testimony against Jesus to put him to death, but they found none. 56 For many bore **false witness** against him, but their testimony **did not agree**. 57 And some stood up and bore **false witness** against him, saying...

#### Mark 14:58 ESV

58 "We heard him say, 'I will destroy this temple that is made with hands, and in three days I will build another, not made with hands.'"

\_\_\_\_\_ of another

#### Mark 15:10 ESV

10 For he perceived that it was out of **envy** that the chief priests had delivered him up.

**Mark 15:15 ESV**

15 So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released for them Barabbas, and having scourged Jesus, he delivered him to be crucified.

**Protection of \_\_\_\_\_**

**Mark 14:60-61a, 15:4-5 ESV**

60 And the high priest stood up in the midst and asked Jesus, "Have you no answer to make? What is it that these men testify against you?" 61 But he remained **silent** and made no answer...

4 And Pilate again asked him, "Have you no answer to make? See how many charges they bring against you." 5 But Jesus made **no further answer**, so that Pilate was amazed.

**1. Jesus Responded with Purposeful \_\_\_\_\_**

**Proverbs 17:28 ESV**

28 Even a fool who keeps silent is considered wise; when he closes his lips, he is deemed intelligent.

**Silence shows a \_\_\_\_\_ from the others accusations.**

**2. Jesus Responded with Purposeful \_\_\_\_\_**

**What is this truth?**

**Mark 15:2 ESV**

2 And Pilate asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" And he answered him, "**You have said so.**"

**Mark 14:61b-62 ESV**

...Again the high priest asked him, "Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?" 62 And Jesus said, "**I am, and you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power, and coming with the clouds of heaven.**"

### Isaiah 53:7 ESV

7 He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth.

### Isaiah 53:5-6 ESV

5 But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed. 6 All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

**To deal with false accusations you must start with the truth of real accusation.**

**The true judge was judged with false accusations so we wouldn't be judged with our real accusations.**

**When falsely accused, the only response worth giving is \_\_\_\_\_ people to**

\_\_\_\_\_

**3. How is my response going to point this other person to Jesus?**

**A. \_\_\_\_\_ the accusation**

### Psalm 26:2-3 ESV

2 Prove me, O Lord, and try me; test my heart and my mind. 3 For your steadfast love is before my eyes, and I walk in your faithfulness.

*“Before we can expect God to vindicate us, we must first make sure we are truly innocent of the accusations. We must allow God to search our hearts, to convict us of any sin we might be harboring in our hearts.”*

—Dena Johnson – <https://www.crosswalk.com/faith/spiritual-life/falsely-accused-vindicate-me-lord.html>

**B. Live in \_\_\_\_\_ of not responding**

*“Jesus felt the freedom of non-response not only because he knew himself, who he was, and why he was here. He also felt free because he knew his accusers. In fact, he knew them better than they even knew themselves. He knew they were deceived slaves to the prince of this world, fully indoctrinated into a corrupt and fading worldview. In fact, he pitied them enough, with deep compassion, to pray for their forgiveness even as they put him to death.”*

—Michael Kelley – <https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/how-would-jesus-respond-online>

**C. Respond with words and actions that \_\_\_\_\_ people to \_\_\_\_\_**

**1 Peter 2:12 ESV**

12 Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.

**D. Let God be your \_\_\_\_\_**

*“It is better to be thought worse than you are now, and have the Lord set things right in the last day, than to be thought better than you are now, only to have Jesus put you in your place in the end.”*

—John Piper – <https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/what-if-your-reputation-is-unjustly-bad>

**Matthew 5:11 ESV**

11 “Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.

**When falsely accused, the only response worth giving is pointing people to Jesus.**

## Discussion Questions – March 10, 2024 – Hope in False Accusations

### Getting to Know You Questions:

**1. Share an experience you had when you were either wrongly accused or betrayed. What life lessons did you learn?**

2. Paul Tripp shares that if you've ever been falsely accused, your mind and heart swirl with different emotions. Below are 5 reactions that we could have. Which ones have you experienced?

– You doubt yourself, allowing the lies of your human enemy (and the spiritual Enemy) to pull your identity away from Christ.

– You're paralyzed by fear of man, haunted by the soiled reputation you're convinced you will now carry around forever.

– You're tormented with regret, and you wish for the power to rewind time so you can set up protective boundaries to prevent any possibility of this happening.

– You're enraged, and you want to go on the warpath to exact vengeance on your accuser.

– You immediately transform into a defense attorney, coming up with things to say and do that could potentially restore your reputation.

### Into the Bible Questions:

Read Mark 14:53-56, 15:1-15

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envy that the chief priests had delivered him up. 11 But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release for them Barabbas instead. 12 And Pilate again said to them, "Then what shall I do with the man you call the King of the Jews?" 13 And they cried out again, "Crucify him." 14 And Pilate said to them, "Why? What evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "Crucify him." 15 So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released for them Barabbas, and having scourged Jesus, he delivered him to be crucified.

3. What was something from the passage or sermon that surprised you, helped you, confused you, or bothered you?

4. What does this passage tell us about God? People? Living to please God?

**5. Why are we tempted to lie?**

**6. Why do we feel the need to respond to accusations levied against us and have the last word?**

**7. Why was Jesus silent through most of the false accusations?**

**8. How can silence or no answers in the face of false accusations be freeing?**

**9. When we face false accusations or mistreatment, we can feel as if God has betrayed us. Do you view yourself as the judge of Jesus or Jesus as the Judge of you? Reflect on the various ways that we act as the judge, even when we know we are not the judge.**

**For Extra Study, Read 1 Peter 2:11-12, 18-25**

11 Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul. 12 Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation...18 Servants, be subject to your masters with all respect, not only to the good and gentle but also to the unjust. 19 For this is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly. 20 For what credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure? But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God. 21 For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. 22 He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. 23 When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly.

24 He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. 25 For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

10. How does doing good towards those who falsely accuse you reflect Christ?

11. What do you find challenging about trusting God?

12. What needs to change in your life so that you can live this out?

13. Jot down any insights, questions, or key observations.

**Application Questions:**

**14. When you are faced with an accusation, how could you spend more time examining whether it is truthful?**

**15. When you are faced with an accusation, what would you need to remind yourself of so you could “live in the freedom of not responding?”**

**16. Ian shared that when we are falsely accused** the only response worth giving is pointing people to Jesus. What are some ways you could respond to accusations that would point others to Jesus?

**17. If you are betrayed or wrongly accused, what are some things you could pray for them about?**

**18. What part should forgiveness need to play?**

19. How can this group help each other with false accusations?