

What Will You Do With Jesus?

The Trial of Jesus

Pastor Chris Engel — November 9, 2025

Mark 14:53-72 (NIV)

⁵³They took Jesus to the high priest, and all the chief priests, the elders and the teachers of the law came together. ⁵⁴Peter followed him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest. There he sat with the guards and warmed himself at the fire. ⁵⁵The chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin were looking for evidence against Jesus so that they could put him to death, but they did not find any. ⁵⁶Many testified falsely against him, but their statements did not agree. ⁵⁷Then some stood up and gave this false testimony against him: ⁵⁸“We heard him say, ‘I will destroy this temple made with human hands and in three days will build another, not made with hands.’” ⁵⁹Yet even then their testimony did not agree. ⁶⁰Then the high priest stood up before them and asked Jesus, “Are you not going to answer? What is this testimony that these men are bringing against you?” ⁶¹But Jesus remained silent and gave no answer. Again the high priest asked him, “Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?” ⁶²“I am,” said Jesus. “And you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven.” ⁶³The high priest tore his clothes. “Why do we need any more witnesses?” he asked. ⁶⁴“You have heard the blasphemy. What do you think?” They all condemned him as worthy of death. ⁶⁵Then some began to spit at him; they blindfolded him, struck him with their fists, and said, “Prophesy!” And the guards took him and beat him.

⁶⁶While Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant girls of the high priest came by. ⁶⁷When she saw Peter warming himself, she looked closely at him. “You also were with that Nazarene, Jesus,” she said. ⁶⁸But he denied it. “I don’t know or understand what you’re talking about,” he said, and went out into the entryway. ⁶⁹When the servant girl saw him there, she said again to those standing around, “This fellow is one of them.” ⁷⁰Again he denied it. After a little while, those standing near said to Peter, “Surely you are one of them, for you are a Galilean.” ⁷¹He began to call down curses, and he swore to them, “I don’t know this man you’re talking about.” ⁷²Immediately the rooster crowed the second time. Then Peter remembered the word Jesus had spoken to him: “Before the rooster crows twice you will disown me three times.” And he broke down and wept.

- **“Who is Jesus?” Judge carefully as your eternity hangs in the balance.** (vs. 55-64; *Matthew 16:13-16; Isaiah 53:6-8*)

Lessons from Peter’s denial ...

- Check Your Pride. (*Mark 14:27-31, 47; Proverbs 16:18*)
- Pray instead of sleep - win the spiritual battle and you win entirely. (*Mark 14:37-38*)
- Stay away from the enemies fire - choose wisely to whom you will go in times of stress. (vs. 54; 66-68)
- Don’t play it safe with Jesus. Don’t follow at a distance. (vs. 54; *Matthew 16:25*)