



## SERMON STUDY GUIDE

“Matthew 26:57-75” on October 21 & 24, 2021

### CONNECT

How did last week’s passage we read/discussed from Matthew 26:31-56 affect your week?

### DISCOVER: MATTHEW 26:57-75

- What did the passage say (in your own words) or did you take away from the sermon this week?
- How does this passage or did the sermon point you to Jesus (teach us about Jesus)?
- Did you find anything challenging about this passage (words you didn’t understand, phrases that didn’t make sense, etc.)?

**MATTHEW 26:57-75 Just hours before Jesus would be hung on a cross, He experienced unjust trials with false witnesses, questioning before the Sanhedrin, being struck, spit upon and mocked, and having a disciple whom He loved deny knowing Him. This passage shows us how having false expectations of God can challenge our faith and our actions, but Jesus’ response in each of these situations teaches us profound lessons in what it means for us to be bearers of the gospel in the world in which we live!**

**Jesus’ Response to the False Witnesses: Jesus chose silence rather than responding to the accusations which were a deceitful distortion of what He had said. Look at John 2:19-21 to see Jesus’ actual words compared to the words of the false witnesses in Matthew 26:61.**

- In what ways did the false witnesses distort Jesus’ words to make them fit this situation?
- Describe how you may have seen similar situations in your own life/work experience and how the outcomes affected you.
- What do you think motivated the High Priest and the Sanhedrin – leaders of the Jewish faith – to stoop to such levels to attempt to entrap Jesus? What false expectations affected their actions?
- Why do you think Jesus chose silence as His response? Have you ever chosen silence when you were accused, or wished you had chosen it? What do we learn from Jesus’ response?

**Jesus’ Response to the high priest’s charge: “Tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God.” Jesus quoted Scripture. The Living Truth was facing hatred and lies, and He – the Word Himself- used scriptures from Psalm 110:1 and Daniel 7:13-14 to lay claim to His Messiahship. Look at those passages along with Jesus’ words in Matthew 26:64.**

- Have you ever experienced or observed hatred with evil intent? How did that challenge your sense of right and wrong and your faith in God?
- How well are you equipped with the armor of Scripture to respond as Jesus did to hatred and evil intent?
- Why could Jesus NOT be silent in response to the high priest’s charge? What was the importance of His reply, and what can we learn from Jesus’ example?

**Jesus’ Response To Peter’s Denial of Knowing Him: His look of love. Peter had walked with Jesus for 3 years, yet he and so many others had false expectations of Jesus that shaped their responses in this passage! As Peter stood at a distance and watched this entire scene, he found himself denying he knew Jesus at all; but when he heard the rooster crow and saw Jesus’ ‘look’ described in Luke 22:61, he wept bitterly at what he had done.**

- How did Judas’ betrayal of Jesus and Peter’s denial of Him differ in their intent and in their later attitudes and actions?
- What do we learn from the choices made by these 2 followers of Jesus?
- How would you explain what Jesus’ look at Peter might have meant to both Jesus and Peter? What would they have been remembering, and what can we learn from that?
- Can you describe a time when you stood silent before others rather than defending Jesus or your faith, or



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when you bitterly wept because you did something you thought you would never do?

- What does today's passage teach you about the way Jesus sees you at these times?
- Right expectations build our faith; what right expectations of God will you cling to after studying today's passage?

### RESPOND

- How does this passage encourage you, challenge you, or change you in your efforts to become more like Jesus?
- What is one thing you learned about yourself from God's Word? How will you respond in obedience this week?
- Who is someone you can have a conversation with about what Jesus is doing in your life or invite to join you at a CU Church gathering.

### PRAY

... for each other and spend time praising God. Pray that he will show you how to better love God and love people.