

WHERE DO YOU STAND? | LUKE 22:54-71 | PASTOR MARK BOFILL | 09/06/2026

I. Standing at a Distance (54–62) | II. Standing In Contempt (63–65) | III. Standing at a Decision (66–71)

INTRO: Jesus **STOOD** for us when it cost Him everything—**but will we STAND with Him when it costs us something?** – It is easy to **confess Christ** when there is **no pressure**. > But what happens when following Him costs your comfort, approval, or reputation? – Jesus never called us to admire Him from a distance—**He calls us to STAND with Him!** – As we examine **Luke 22:54–71**, **the examples** in our text challenge each of us to answer: **WHERE DO YOU STAND?**

I. STANDING AT A DISTANCE (54-62) – **READ:** After arresting Jesus in Gethsemane, *“they led Him...But Peter followed at a distance”* (54). – That last phrase tells us more than Peter's location...

A. A Dangerous Distance (54): **Peter loved Jesus!** He wanted to know what would happen. So he positioned himself close enough to observe Jesus—**but far enough away to protect himself!**

1. His Devotion Was Real! – Peter had left everything to follow Christ... He had walked on water... and earlier He had confessed: *“You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”* (Matt 16:16)

2. He was not an Unbeliever who was failing. > At this moment, **He was a disciple drifting!** –

P/A: Most believers don't suddenly decide, *“Today I'm going to walk away from Jesus.”* No...

- **Usually, the Drift is Slower!** **Prayer** becomes occasional... > **The Word** becomes neglected... > **Conviction** becomes easier to ignore... > **Worship** becomes routine... > and before long, **you're still following Jesus**—but not nearly as closely as you once did! (cf. Heb 2:1)

P/A: How close are YOU walking with Jesus right now? – Ask yourself, *where has distance developed between Jesus and me?* – (James 4:8) *“Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.”*

B. A Dangerous Association (55-58): Peter then enters the courtyard where a fire had been kindled, *“and Peter SAT among them”* (55). – **Notice the Progression!**

1. Peter was warming himself at the **Wrong Fire!** – John tells us (John 18:18), that Peter was both **Standing** and **Sitting** the adversaries! (ttm. Psalm 1:1).

- Peter wanted to be **Close Enough** to **SEE** what happened to Jesus—but far enough away that nobody would associate him **WITH** Jesus! *but...*

2. Peter was Noticed! (56): **A servant girl** looked closely at Peter and said: *“This man was also with Him.”* – Peter responded (57): *“Woman, I do not know Him.”* – **This is DENIAL #1.**

3. Peter was Recognized by another (58) Peter answered: *“Man, I am not!”* – **This is DENIAL #2.**

- **The Fearless Fisherman** who once swung a sword at armed soldiers is **now intimidated by a servant girl!** **WHY?** Because physical courage and spiritual courage are **not always the same**. – Peter had been willing to **fight for Jesus** but for this moment chose not to associate **with Jesus!**

P/A: It is possible to **BE BOLD** about Christ among Christians and **SILENT** about Christ around Unbelievers. The question is not merely: *“Do you believe in Jesus?”* The question is: *“Are you willing to be identified with Jesus?”* Paul wrote: *“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ.”* (Rom 1:16)

C. A Devastating Denial (59-62): *About an hour later*, another confidently insisted: *“Surely this fellow also was with Him, for he is a Galilean”* (59).

1. Matthew tells us Peter's accent betrayed him. – “*Then he began to curse and swear, saying, ‘I do not know the Man!’*” (Matt 26:74). **This is DENIAL #3 then immediately... The Rooster Crowed! (60)**
2. Suddenly, **everything Jesus had told Peter came rushing back**. – But Luke records something incredibly powerful: “*And the Lord turned and looked at Peter.*” (61a) – **Imagine that moment!**
 - a. **Jesus Looked intently**, it was not a casual glance. **Their eyes met!** > **I don't believe Peter saw hatred in the eyes of Jesus**. > He saw the eyes of the One who had warned him... The One who had Prayed for him... The One who already Knew he would fail... YET STILL LOVED HIM!
 - b. **The Look Brought Remembrance (61b)** – Suddenly everything Jesus had said came rushing back. What did he remember? “*...the word of the Lord...*” (cf. 31-34).
3. Peter then “*went out and Wept Bitterly*” (62) – The Greek idea behind **pikros**/bitterly, describes **intense grief**. Peter was crushed... His heart was broken **OVER HIS SIN!**
 - There is a tremendous difference between being **Sorry you were caught** and **being Broken because you sinned against the Lord**. – (2 Cor 7:10) “*For godly sorrow produces repentance...*”
 - What Peter **needed to focus on now** was that fact that Jesus knew that he would fail, and promised to RESTORE HIM! (vv.32; John 21:15-17)
 - **The man who denied Christ before a servant girl** would eventually **STAND before thousands at Pentecost** and boldly proclaim: “*God has made this Jesus... both Lord and Christ.*” (Acts 2:36)

P/A: As believers in Jesus Christ, we should find comfort in Jesus' Grace and restoration Promises! Our greatest failure does not have to become our final identity! – If you've drifted... If you've denied Him by your words, choices, silence, or lifestyle... **COME BACK TO JESUS!** The same Jesus who looked at Peter still restores repentant disciples today!

SEGUE: Peter **Stood at a Distance** and eventually realized who Jesus was. – But the **Tragedy of the next group** is that they stood incredibly **CLOSE to Jesus—and STILL couldn't see Him!**

II. STANDING IN CONTEMPT (63-65) – **READ:** “*Now the men who held Jesus mocked Him and beat Him.*” (63) – Jesus now STANDS before men who have **no idea WHO STANDS before them!**

A. Their Cruel Mockery (63): The word “**mocked**” comes from the Greek **empaizō**—to ridicule, make sport of, or treat someone as an object of amusement. – **They did not merely reject Jesus...they entertained themselves by humiliating Him.**

- **This is ironic because** (John 1:3) says: “*All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.*”
- **The CREATOR was mocked by His CREATION!** – **The Hands** striking Jesus were hands He had created. > **The Lungs** laughing at Him were lungs receiving breath because He sustained them.
- Isaiah had prophesied: “*I gave My back to those who struck Me, and My cheeks to those who plucked out the beard; I did not hide My face from shame and spitting.*” (Isa 50:6) > **Yet Jesus remained submitted to the Father's plan**. – Isaiah had prophesied: “*He was oppressed and He was afflicted, yet He opened not His mouth.*” (Isa 53:7)

B. Their Callous Treatment (64): They **blindfolded Jesus** and turned His suffering into a game! “*If You're really a prophet—tell us who hit You!*” – **JESUS KNEW EXACTLY WHO HIT HIM!**

- **And even more astonishing...** He knew He was going to the Cross to make salvation available even to sinners like THEM! (Rom 5:8) *"But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."*

C. Their Contemptuous Blasphemy (65): *"And many other things they blasphemously spoke against Him."* – They didn't recognize His worth! > They **STOOD** close enough to touch Jesus physically while remaining completely **blind to Him spiritually!** (Only **UNBELIEF** produces such Contempt!)

P/A: PROXIMITY TO JESUS IS NOT THE SAME AS KNOWING JESUS! > You can Sit in church... Own several Bibles... Sing worship songs... **and still never Personally Surrender your life to Christ!**

- There is another danger for believers: We can become so familiar with the Cross that we lose our WONDER of the Cross! – A True Christian should **NEVER** forget what our **Salvation COST!**
- (Isa 53:5) *"But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities..."* Every blow reminds us He took our place > Every insult reminds us > He bore our shame > And Every step toward Calvary reminds us: **THIS IS WHAT OUR SALVATION COST!**

SEGUE: Peter looked at Jesus and **WEPT**... The soldiers looked at Jesus and **MOCKED**, now the religious leaders will look directly at Jesus and Demand an Answer...

III. STANDING AT A DECISION (66-71) – **READ:** *The other Gospels* record that **in the early dark hours**, Jesus was **first illegally examined** by both **Annas (John 18:13)** and **Caiphas (Matt 26:57-68; Mark 14:53-65)** – BUT... *"As soon as it was DAY..."* The religious leadership gathered and brought Jesus before their official council—the **Sanhedrin**. / These had studied the Scriptures, they knew the prophecies, and they were waiting for Messiah, who was now STANDING in right front of them!

A. The Critical Question (66-67): They demanded: *"If You are the CHRIST, tell us."* (67) – The word **CHRIST: Christos** means **"Anointed One."** In simple words they asked: **"Are You the Messiah?"**

1. **This is THE Right Question!** but it was asked with the **WRONG HEART!** – Because Christianity ultimately **Stands or Falls** on the identity of Jesus Christ, Jesus answered: "If I tell you, you will by no means believe." (Their problem wasn't a lack of evidence but an **Unwillingness to BELIEVE the evidence!**)
2. They had **heard His teaching**... they had **witnessed His miracles**... they **knew the prophetic Scriptures**, yet **Their hearts were already determined to reject Him!**

P/A: There comes a point where the issue isn't: **"Do I have enough information about Jesus?"** The issue becomes: **"What am I going to DO with Jesus?"**

B. The Coming King (68-69): Jesus then turns the interrogation around: *"Hereafter the Son of Man will sit on the right hand of the power of God"* (69); drawing language from (Dan 7:13-14; Ps 110:1)

1. **HIS STATEMENT** is an astonishing declaration! – At that moment, Jesus appeared to be THEIR Prisoner and THEY appeared to be the Judges. – **BUT JESUS TELLS THEM THE ROLES WILL ONE DAY BE REVERSED!** i.e., **TODAY** you sit in judgment over Me... **ONE DAY** I will sit in judgment over YOU!
- The beaten Prisoner **STANDING** before them was actually **the Coming KING!** – (Phil 2:10-11) says **ONE DAY:** *"At the name of Jesus every knee should bow... and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord."* (The real question to ask: Will we bow willingly before Him AS SAVIOR NOW or STAND before HIM as Judge THEN!)

C. The Clear Confession (70-71): The Sanhedrin ask one final question: *“Are You then the Son of God?”* – Jesus responds: *“You rightly say that I am”* (70) – Mark’s account says, *“I Am.”* (Mark 14:62) – **There is no ambiguity left!** Jesus has identified Himself. And immediately they say: *“What further testimony do we need? For we have heard it ourselves from His own mouth.”* (71)

1. **THEY HAD THEIR ANSWER!** But instead of worshipping Him... **THEY CONDEMNED HIM!**

2. **THE GREAT TRAGEDY:** They didn't crucify Jesus because they couldn't determine who He claimed to be... They crucified Him because they **REJECTED** who He claimed to be!

P/A: Eventually every person must make a decision concerning Jesus Christ. **You cannot remain permanently neutral!** Jesus asked His disciples: *“But who do you say that I am?”* (Matt 16:15)

That question eventually comes to **EVERY ONE OF US!** – **NOT:** What did your parents believe? > What does your spouse believe? > What does your church believe? But... **WHO DO YOU SAY JESUS IS?**

CLOSING CHALLENGE: In this passage, almost everyone was **STANDING** somewhere near Jesus...

- **PETER** stood at a **DISTANCE!** *Maybe that's you...* You love the Lord, but somewhere along the way you've drifted. > Prayer has become distant. > The Word has become neglected. > Your spiritual passion has cooled. But Jesus' response to Peter reminds us: **COME BACK!**

- **THE SOLDIERS** stood in **CONTEMPT!** They were physically near Jesus but spiritually blind to His worth! *Maybe you've been around Christianity for years,* but you've never truly surrendered your life to Christ. > Don't confuse being around Jesus with **BELONGING TO JESUS!**

- **THE RELIGIOUS LEADERS** stood at a **DECISION!** They heard Jesus plainly declare who He was and still rejected Him. *Maybe that's you!* Today, you have another chance!

When everything else is stripped away, the most important question isn't WHERE YOU STAND politically... socially... financially... or even religiously. **The question that matters for eternity is: WHERE DO YOU STAND WITH JESUS?**

- Jesus said: *“Whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven.”* (Matt 10:32)

COMMUNION: As we come to the Lord's Table, this passage gives us a beautiful opportunity for examination. – Paul said: *“But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup.”* (1 Cor 11:28)

- Communion is not about examining everyone around us. **It is about allowing the Lord to examine us!**