

# MARK — How Will You Respond To Jesus?

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## Mark 14:43-65

Just as he was speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, appeared. With him was a crowd armed with swords and clubs, sent from the chief priests, the teachers of the law, and the elders.

Now the betrayer had arranged a signal with them: “The one I kiss is the man; arrest him and lead him away under guard.” Going at once to Jesus, Judas said, “Rabbi!” and kissed him. The men seized Jesus and arrested him. Then one of those standing near drew his sword and struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his ear.

“Am I leading a rebellion,” said Jesus, “that you have come out with swords and clubs to capture me? Every day I was with you, teaching in the temple courts, and you did not arrest me. But the Scriptures must be fulfilled.” Then everyone deserted him and fled.

A young man, wearing nothing but a linen garment, was following Jesus. When they seized him, he fled naked, leaving his garment behind.

They took Jesus to the high priest, and all the chief priests, the elders and the teachers of the law came together. Peter 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.

The 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. Many testified falsely against him, but their statements did not agree.

Then some stood up and gave this false testimony against him: “We heard him say, ‘I will destroy this temple made with human hands and in three days will build another, not made with hands.’ ” Yet even then their testimony did not agree.

Then 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?” But Jesus remained silent and gave no answer.

Again the high priest asked him, “Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?”

“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.”

The high priest tore his clothes. “Why do we need any more witnesses?” he asked. “You have heard the blasphemy. What do you think?”

They all condemned him as worthy of death. Then some began to spit at him; they blindfolded him, struck him with their fists, and said, “Prophecy!” And the guards took him and beat him.

*The New International Version* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2011), Mk 14:43–65.

## Rapid Scene Change

Jesus goes from a garden of betrayal by one of his own disciples to a shady courtroom in the middle of the night.

Mark wanted us to know that it was before the religious leaders and experts of the law. This trial was planned in the cover of the night. They conspired against him by bringing false witnesses against him, but none of their witnesses agreed.

It is evident as Mark presents it that this trial was never legal; they wanted to rush Jesus through so they could push their agenda through.

Why is Jesus really on trial?

Why are they trying to kill him?

What sparked this passionate rage to hobble together a sham trial?

## The Crux of the Matter

One clue is that one of the witnesses claimed that Jesus announced that he would destroy the temple and rebuild it again.

But even then, if we've been paying attention, Jesus didn't even say that.

The actual key moment was when Jesus walked into the temple and chased everybody out with a whip, shouting, "my house shall be a house of prayer, not a den of robbers."

## Two Powers In Heaven

But now back to the courtroom scene, we see the high priest asking Jesus, "Are you the one who is coming to restore Israel and the Davidic kingdom?"

And finally, Jesus says, "I am."

But then Jesus takes it further and claims, "And you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven."

*The New International Version* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2011), Mk 14:62.

Jesus delivers a one-two punch that quotes from Psalm 110 and Daniel 7:

The Lord says to my lord:  
“Sit at my right hand  
until I make your enemies  
a footstool for your feet.”

*The New International Version* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2011), Ps 110:1.

In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all nations and peoples of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed.

*The New International Version* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2011), Da 7:13–14.

And thus claims that he is the second power in Heaven, above all divine and human beings.

And this is an unbelievable claim. This is the first time that the Messianic secret is out of the bag. Even though he's sitting in the courtroom being judged by rebellious

shepherds, he will be the one at the end of time who will judge all peoples, tribes, languages, and tongues.

## **How Are You Handling the Truth of Jesus?**

The truth may be that we're not much different from the people in that sham trial.

- "But I'm not beating or spitting on Jesus!"

But if you look deeper and interrogate your motives and beliefs, you may find that you are motivated by the same reasons the organizers of the sham trial put Jesus to the cross.

In the same way, we sit in the judgment seat and falsely judge Jesus. Here are four ways all humans do this.

### **You Decide What's Right & Wrong**

"I get to decide what parts of Jesus I like and what I don't like about Jesus, and I'll make my own way to follow Jesus."

You make your own personal agenda gospel. Combine crystal, Elvis, Buddha, energy, and make it Jesus+ for however you want to live.

Or you jettison sacrificial love for others. Or say, "I like what Jesus says about money and the poor, but he doesn't get to touch my sex life."

Or maybe we say, "I like what Jesus says about sex and morality, but I get to decide how much a tithe is and when I give and when I feel like being generous."

All of those are ways that we sit as judge over Jesus when we get to define what he meant by his words instead of letting his words judge our hearts.

“Jesus, you can be a great moral teacher, but I don’t accept him as Lord over my life.”



**Lordship:** is he the judge of the world? If he is, then we do we pretend like we hold more authority than he does?

## When You Fail To Forgive

Each of us has experienced injustice at the hands of other people and organizations. Some have done willing wrongs or honest mistakes that result in us getting the short end of the stick.

And so has Jesus. He is familiar with betrayal, left at the moment where all his friends have deserted him, and he’s left alone in a sham trial in the middle of the night. Like the Psalmist said,

You have taken from me friend and neighbor—  
darkness is my closest friend.

*The New International Version* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2011), Ps 88:–18.

And Jesus taught and lived a life of forgiving those who betrayed and deserted him. He taught us always to pray, (paraphrased), “Forgive me to the extent that I forgive other people.”

It’s when we have that seventy-times-seven number of forgiveness that Jesus quoted earlier should come to the front of our mind.

Jesus was judged for you in how you betrayed him, but he also was judged for the people that wronged us.

## When You Continue to Condemn Yourself

When we speak negative things over ourselves and beat ourselves up, we throw away Jesus' redemptive work in our lives that freed us from the law of sin and death.

Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, 2 because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death.

*The New International Version* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2011), Ro 8:1–2.

You are still sitting in the judgment seat by saying, “No Jesus, what you’re saying about me and what you’ve done for me doesn’t matter.” You spit in his face.

## When You Think God Got It Wrong

When we approach a failed situation and say, “God you got it wrong. You should have done something else. You didn’t answer that prayer the way I wanted to.”

That’s when we sit in judgment.

It is God’s wisdom that determines that his strength is made perfect in our weakness.



We can get out of the judgment seat by seeing what the judge of the earth does for us: He steps out of the judgment seat and gives himself up for the guilty.

