DIVING DEEPER DISCUSSION GUIDE



TEXT SUMMARY

Our text is Mark 14:53-72, where we see two parallel trials. Jesus is convicted in an impromptu hearing in the house of the high priest, while Peter undergoes his own trial outside in the courtyard.

In both trials, the truth about Jesus proves to be costly:

- 1. The high priest discovers that the truth about Jesus is costly because it overturns the status quo.
- 2. Peter discovers that the truth about Jesus is costly because it overturns his own self-image.

INTRODUCTION (OBSERVATION):

- 1. How does Mark open our text (v. 53-54) to show that the two "trials" occur simultaneously?
- 2. How does Mark mirror Peter's three denials with three stages in Jesus' "trial"?
- 3. The high priest asks Jesus a yes/no question. But Jesus not only answers the question but also expands on his answer, providing the evidence the Sanhedrin was seeking. Go back to read Daniel 7:13-14 to see the words that would have come to mind when they heard Jesus' answer.

DISCUSSION (INTERPRETATION):

We are often tempted to read Bible stories backward; that is, we read what happens in the story with an awareness of how the story ends, and we don't appreciate the impact of events in the moment for the people who experienced those events. Without knowing that Jesus would forgive and restore him, how would Peter have interpreted the events of that night? What would he have thought his collapse meant in his own life, in his relationship with his rabbi?

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SO WHAT? (APPLICATION):

Here we move toward first-person pronouns as we begin to consider how we must **respond** to what God has said in His Word.

- 1. The truth about Jesus disrupted the status quo in first century Judaism. It was not just that he claimed to be Israel's long-awaited Messiah; Jesus claimed to be God's own Son. If Jesus had been the simple rustic preacher that the high priest took him for, the Council was right to erupt in outrage and protest. But if Jesus was who he claimed to be, everything had changed with his coming.
 - We too experience a kind of disequilibrium when we come to faith in Christ: he disrupts our status quo. And the more deeply entrenched our rebellion, the more violent that disruption will prove to be.
 - How has your faith in Christ upended the settled order of things in your life?
 - ...in your family life?
 - ...in your financial life?
 - ...in your priorities and values?
- 2. The truth about Jesus upended Peter's sense of self. The man who had boasted that he would be faithful to Jesus even if everyone else fell away, the man who had leaped to Jesus' defense when he was arrested, the man who followed the arresting party while the others fled to safety... now that same brave man crumbles before the questions of a servant girl.
 - Have you ever experienced this kind of collapse, where your good intentions evaporated in the mist of a blind panic? What did you learn about yourself in that moment?
 - How has God restored your equilibrium since then?