

The Silently Faithful King (Mark 14:53-72)

INTRODUCTION:

What was the most embarrassing memory you have as a kid? Or if you're a parent in the room, what's the most embarrassing moment you've had ABOUT your kid? One of the most embarrassing stories from my childhood took place at the zoo. After my family had walked around for a bit, we stopped at a playground and my parents released my brother and I run around. As they rested on a bench, taking a break from walking around the large zoo, they noticed a big group of kids huddled together in a circle. Curious and a little anxious, they walked over to see what was going on... to their horror, there I was, my little five-year old self taking a potty break right there on that playground for an audience of fellow toddlers! The embarrassment my parents must have felt on behalf of "whoever's kid this was"... but once they mustered up the courage to claim me, I'm sure the thoughts of judgement of those parents around them must have settled in...

"Whose kid is this? They should be embarrassed..."

"These parents must be doing a terrible job to let this happen."

"Sure, this kid might not know better, but surely the parents do...?"

Accusations, judgement, denial... some of this probably felt unfair, while others might have been founded. Today, we're going to look at the only person in history who stood accused and deserved none of it...

Jesus, the Son of Man, stood silent and blameless among accusations, abuse, and denial... and went faithfully to the cross anyway.

Let's open up God's Word to Mark 14:53-72.

BODY:

Jesus, the Son of Man, stood silent and blameless among false accusations... and went faithfully to the cross anyway. (v53-61a)

At the turn of the nineteenth century, *The London Times* wrote an article called "What's Wrong with the World?" Amidst all of the different thoughts and responses, a man named G.K. Chesterton responded to the article with a letter that read:

"Dear Sir: Regarding your article 'What's Wrong with the World'? I am. Yours truly, G.K. Chesterton"

There's something about Chesterton's response to this article that resonates with our humanity. We know (I know) deep down that we (sinful, fallen, broken humanity) are the true problem with the world. And yet, there's another side of our humanity that struggles with the response of Chesterton... what do you mean I'm what's wrong with the world? Don't you know all that I do? Don't you understand the "good things" I do for those around me? How dare you accuse me of being what's wrong with the world! Regardless, however, of your response to Chesterton's reply, there's something very human about puffing up in defensive nature when you feel like you're being confused. Yet here stands Jesus, the only human to ever be blameless in His lifetime before God, receiving the false accusations of those who would have Him killed.

v53-54 set the scene:

53 "And they led Jesus to the high priest. And all the chief priests and the elders and the scribes came together. **54** And Peter had followed him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest. And he was sitting with the guards and warming himself at the fire."

Jesus is led before the high priest, chief priests, elders and scribes; Peter is following at a distance, warming himself in the courtyard of the high priest among the guards.

55 Now the chief priests and the whole council^[f] were seeking testimony against Jesus to put him to death, but they found none. **56** For many bore false witness against him, but their testimony did not agree. **57** And some stood up and bore false witness against him, saying, **58** "We heard him say, 'I will destroy this temple that is made with hands, and in three days I will build another, not made with hands.'" **59** Yet even about this their testimony did not agree."

This shows the intent of this trial of Jesus before the religious leaders of the day. Numbers 35:30, Deuteronomy 17:6 and Deuteronomy 19:15 give further insight into the order of that day: "In Jewish trials the witnesses served as the prosecution, giving their testimonies

separately. Convicting a person for a crime, the Mosaic Law required precise agreement in the testimony of at least two witnesses." As the council and religious leaders of that day are seeking to destroy Jesus, their testimonies refuse to condemn Jesus... because their testimonies aren't true! How could the things that Jesus has done, said, and will do be false? They can't be! Because of this plan set by the religious leaders not working out how they deviously hoped, v60-61a alludes to the high priest who steps in to try to trap Jesus...

"60 And the high priest stood up in the midst and asked Jesus, "Have you no answer to make? What is it that these men testify against you?"^[g] **61** But he remained silent and made no answer."

...and still Jesus remains silent.

Jesus is walking straight into the fulfillment of Isaiah 53, even more specifically in this section verse 7,

"He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth."

Why would the lamb of God be oppressed? Why would He be afflicted? Why would He not open His mouth and speak His defense, like we would if we felt we were being falsely accused?

A commentary on Mark describes this moment well - "In majestic silence, Jesus refused to dignify the self-refuting testimony by any explanation of His own."

He stood silent among oppression because His very life refuted the false accusations. He stood silent while being afflicted as His actions up until that moment proved His innocence. He didn't open His mouth because He had faithfully decided to endure what we deserved - the oppression, accusations, afflictions - on our behalf... defying all logic.

While I desire to be outside of the room in that moment, not a part of the accusations, I have to be honest with myself that my words and actions have been in the crowd of self-righteous people speaking falsely against the perfect lamb of God. When I willingly enter into sin, I once again look at Jesus and say, "You might claim to be God, but in this area, I want to be." May it never be!

And yet... knowing that we would do this... Jesus went... silent for He was sinless... silent in telling those accusing that it was YOU He was needing to do this for... willingly to be

beaten, spit on, yelled at... for you. Jesus, the Son of Man, stood silent and blameless among the accusations... and went faithfully to the cross anyway - aren't you struck by this today, Fellowship? He heard our voice among those accusing Him and faithfully pressed on for our sake.

Jesus, the Son of Man, was beaten, spit on, mocked, and abused after revealing who He was... and went faithfully to the cross anyway. (v61b-65)

I don't know about you, but when I was growing up there were several moments that I would be getting a punishment from my parents for something I did and they would ask, "What do you think you deserve for _____?" There was always a temptation to low ball your punishment, but there was also this nagging thing being asked a question like that did to your mind in making you speak what you actually thought you deserved. Or the other side of the coin where you received some treatment for simply being who you were... I remember being treated by a classmate in high school like an idiot because I was on the football team. It was like she couldn't imagine me being able to be an athlete AND capable with school work at the same time!

v61b shows the high priest making an explicit question - no more beating around the bush. "Again the high priest asked him, 'Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?'"

I can only imagine the silence in the seconds after this question that enveloped the room. People leaned in, eyes wide, ears open... what would Jesus say? Would He continue to remain silent? No.

"62 And Jesus said, "I am, and you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power, and coming with the clouds of heaven."

Jesus unequivocally answered, **I am**, that is, 'I am the Messiah, the Son of God.' This is the first time in Mark's Gospel that He openly declared He is the Messiah. This mighty, powerful, and truthful statement from Jesus is soaked with Messianic truth.

Jesus start with the most truthful, simple, and basic response: I AM. This would've been a moment of shock-and-awe to those listening, an allusion to God's response to Moses from the burning bush in Exodus 3:13-14, "Then Moses said to God, "If I come to the people of

Israel and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?" God said to Moses, "I am who I am." Jesus is not shying away from finally, verbally, officially declaring who He is.

Jesus continues on by alluding to Daniel 7:13-14 and Psalm 110:1.

Daniel 7:13-14 says, "I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him. And to him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed," and Psalm 110:1 states, "The Lord says to my Lord: "Sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies your footstool." Dominion, glory, a kingdom given; all peoples, nations, and languages serving Him; a dominion and kingdom that would last forever; sitting at the right hand of God, the place of authority.

Again, Jesus is making Himself very known and declared to this Bible scholars who would've no doubt caught onto the language... in fact, we see this acted on in v63-65.

63 And the high priest tore his garments and said, "What further witnesses do we need?

64 You have heard his blasphemy. What is your decision?" And they all condemned him as deserving death. **65** And some began to spit on him and to cover his face and to strike him, saying to him, "Prophecy!" And the guards received him with blows."

Garments torn to declare blasphemy. Condemnation to death being proclaimed by those there. "On account of His messianic claims **they blindfolded Him, struck Him with their fists and** demanded that He **prophecy** who hit Him. This reflects a traditional test of messianic status based on a Rabbinic interpretation of Isaiah 11:2-4. The true Messiah could judge such matters without the benefit of sight." Little did they know that the true Messiah could judge these, yes, and still chose to go silently to the cross. Little did they know that the true Messiah would die on their behalf.

What has your response been to Jesus' declaration of "I AM"? Have you bowed before Him, submitting yourself and your sinful ways to Him and following His humble life? Or have you responded by condemning Him, hitting Him, mocking Him, spitting on Him through your life of rebellion to stay in your sinful ways? Friends, chose the right response. When Jesus declares who He is, we dare not mock Him in reply but simply declare "I believe - help my unbelief!"

Jesus, the Son of Man, after being denied and cursed by the very one who called Him Lord, looked at the denier...

and went faithfully to the cross anyway. (v66-72)

When I was in the zoo as a kid, as embarrassing as it was, my parents actually jumped in, alleviated the situation, and claimed me as their child, I'm sure apologizing to those who were onlooking. They knew me intimately as their son and in my embarrassing moment, didn't turn their back on me. This scene shifts suddenly to one of Jesus' closest disciples and friends, one who claimed to never turn his back on His Lord, a simple fisherman named Peter.

"**66** And as Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant girls of the high priest came, **67** and seeing Peter warming himself, she looked at him and said, "You also were with the Nazarene, Jesus." **68** But he denied it, saying, "I neither know nor understand what you mean." And he went out into the gateway^[c] and the rooster crowed.^[d] **69** And the servant girl saw him and began again to say to the bystanders, "This man is one of them." **70** But again he denied it. And after a little while the bystanders again said to Peter, "Certainly you are one of them, for you are a Galilean." **71** But he began to invoke a curse on himself and to swear, "I do not know this man of whom you speak." **72** And immediately the rooster crowed a second time. And Peter remembered how Jesus had said to him, "Before the rooster crows twice, you will deny me three times." And he broke down and wept." Peter is asked three times if he knows this man, Jesus, and three times he denies that he does. The first time, Peter uses a common Jewish legal expression ("I neither **know** nor **understand what** you (emphatic) are saying.") and continues inside closer to Jesus. The second time, Peter denies his association with Jesus again. Then, in culmination of the situation, after being asked a third time, Peter "placed himself under God's curse if he were lying to them and put himself under oath, as in a courtroom, to confirm the veracity of his denial," denying knowledge of "this man" they were talking about.

How deceitful man's heart is! How terrible and wicked we can find ourselves being! How selfish we are! How much we in moments find ourselves defending ourselves over proclaiming God's sovereignty! How incredulous and wicked man's heart must be to go from proclaiming "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God" only weeks before vehemently denying association with "this man" who stands falsely accused, beaten, spat upon, and mocked! I wonder if it hurt Jesus more to experience this physical pain or to know of the denial that His friend, Peter, was speaking against Him.

Peter, don't you want to be associated?? Aren't you proud of your years with Jesus?? How could you respond this way?! Isn't this your friend, your Lord, your King? As much as we like to think that we wouldn't be like Peter in the story, we are. Don't believe me? Look at your life as I look at mine! How many times have you denied relationship with Jesus through your silence in worldly work conversations? How many times have you denied knowing Jesus while you edge closer to the sin that's enticing you??

And all the while... Jesus is aware. He's predicted this. Luke 22:61 shows an gut-wrenching detail... that as Peter denies Jesus for the third time, Jesus looked at Peter. But I'm convinced that it was not with disgust or maliciousness... but to remind Himself of the reason He was enduring what He was and going to the cross anyways.

"The importance and relevance of Peter's denial for the church to which Mark writes is obvious. To a church under severe pressure of persecution it provided a warning. If denial of Jesus Christ was possible for an apostle, and one of the leaders of the apostles at that, then they must be constantly on guard lest they too deny Jesus. The story also provided assurance that if anyone did fail Jesus under the duress of persecution, there was always a way open for repentance, forgiveness, and restoration (cf. 16:7)."

Where are you today? Are you in need to look Jesus in the eyes, experience His forgiveness, and repent of your sin? Do you need to loudly proclaim in your life your love of Him and your belief that He is the Son of God? Don't wait!!

Application and HP:

Jesus, the Son of Man, stood silent and blameless among accusations, abuse, and denial... and went faithfully to the cross anyways.

There are three questions I want to leave you with today to seriously wrestle through:

1. What are the ways you've accused Jesus of not being God, through your willful sin? Repent today.
2. How have you joined the mockery of Jesus in recent weeks, through favoring your reign over His? Repent today.
3. Through what words and actions have you denied Jesus as your Lord, Savior, and friend? Repent today.

Ending/Communion:

If we stopped here, it would be considered the greatest tragedy in human history... in fact it IS the greatest tragedy in human history. But there's more to the story... Jesus would go on to defeat death and sin, rising again from the grave... as only God could!

Want a glimpse of just how good our Jesus is? He goes to Peter on the beach in John 21... calls him to eat with Him yet again... and gives him three chances to affirm his love for Jesus. "Peter, do you love Me? Feed My sheep."

This has been a weighty message, but realize that Jesus doesn't leave you in the conviction! You need to feel it, realize what Jesus did for you and repent but He comes to you... beckons you... forgives you... looks at you... loves you... calls you to affirm your love for Him yet again. Will you do that today?

FOLLOW

JESUS THROUGH THE BOOK OF MARK

PART 3: FOLLOW THE FAITHFULNESS OF JESUS



THE SILENTLY FAITHFUL KING

MAIN POINT: JESUS, THE SON OF MAN, STOOD SILENT AND
BLAMELESS AMONG ACCUSATIONS, ABUSE, AND DENIAL... AND
WENT FAITHFULLY TO THE CROSS ANYWAY.

1- JESUS, THE SON OF MAN, STOOD SILENT AND BLAMELESS AMONG
FALSE ACCUSATIONS... AND WENT FAITHFULLY TO THE CROSS
ANYWAY. (V53-61A)

53 And they led Jesus to the high priest. And all the chief priests and the elders and the scribes came together. 54 And Peter had followed him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest. And he was sitting with the guards and warming himself at the fire.

MARK 14:53-54 (ESV)

55 Now the chief priests and the whole council were seeking testimony against Jesus to put him to death, but they found none. 56 For many bore false witness against him, but their testimony did not agree. 57 And some stood up and bore false witness against him, saying, 58 “We heard him say, ‘I will destroy this temple that is made with hands, and in three days I will build another, not made with hands.’” 59 Yet even about this their testimony did not agree.”

MARK 14:55-59 (ESV)

INSIGHT INTO JEWISH TRIALS (NUMBERS 35:30, DEUTERONOMY 17:6,
DEUTERONOMY 19:15)

60 And the high priest stood up in the midst and asked Jesus, "Have you no answer to make? What is it that these men testify against you?" 61 But he remained silent and made no answer.

MARK 14:60-61A (ESV)

He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth;
like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers
is silent, so he opened not his mouth.

ISAIAH 53:7 (ESV)



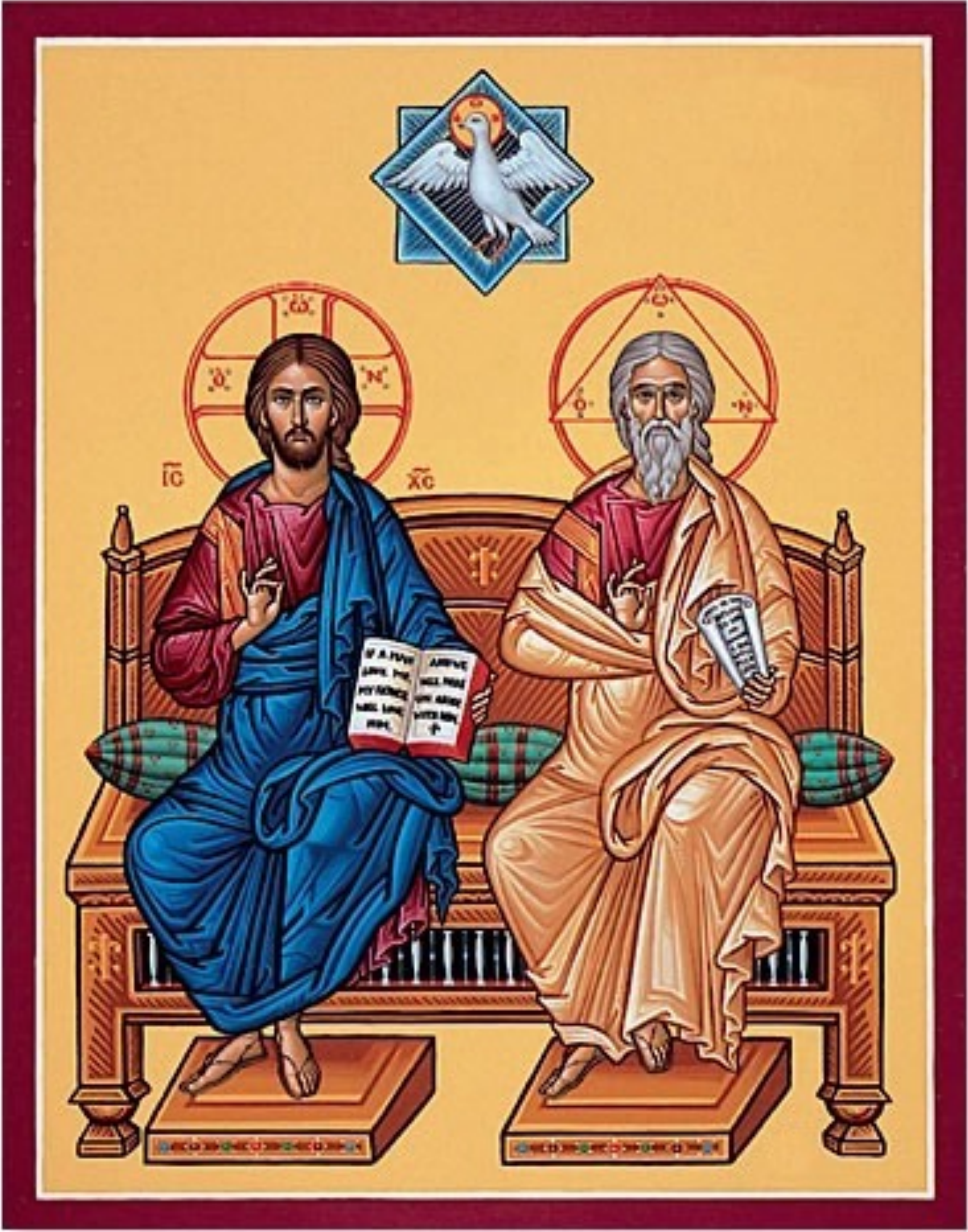
2- JESUS, THE SON OF MAN, WAS BEATEN, SPIT ON, MOCKED, AND ABUSED ABOUT REVEALING WHO HE WAS... AND WENT FAITHFULLY TO THE CROSS ANYWAY. (V61B-65)

Again the high priest asked him, “Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?”
62 And Jesus said, “I am, and you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power, and coming with the clouds of heaven.” 63 And the high priest tore his garments and said, “What further witnesses do we need?”

MARK 14:61B-63 (ESV)







3- JESUS, THE SON OF MAN, AFTER BEING DENIED AND CURSED BY THE VERY ONE WHO CALLED HIM LORD, LOOKED AT THAT DENIER... AND WENT FAITHFULLY TO THE CROSS ANYWAY. (V66-72)

66 And as Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant girls of the high priest came, 67 and seeing Peter warming himself, she looked at him and said, "You also were with the Nazarene, Jesus." 68 But he denied it, saying, "I neither know nor understand what you mean." And he went out into the gateway and the rooster crowed. 69 And the servant girl saw him and began again to say to the bystanders, "This man is one of them." 70 But again he denied it. And after a little while the bystanders again said to Peter, "Certainly you are one of them, for you are a Galilean." 71 But he began to invoke a curse on himself and to swear, "I do not know this man of whom you speak."

MARK 14:66-72 (ESV)

72 And immediately the rooster crowed a second time. And Peter remembered how Jesus had said to him, “Before the rooster crows twice, you will deny me three times.” And he broke down and wept.

MARK 14:66-72 (ESV)



61 And the Lord turned and looked at Peter. And Peter remembered the saying of the Lord, how he had said to him, "Before the rooster crows today, you will deny me three times."

LUKE 22:61 (ESV)



MAIN POINT (RESTATED): JESUS, THE SON OF MAN, STOOD SILENT AND BLAMELESS AMONG ACCUSATIONS, ABUSE, AND DENIAL... AND WENT FAITHFULLY TO THE CROSS ANYWAY.

THREE QUESTIONS, THREE INVITATIONS:

1. WHAT ARE THE WAYS YOU'VE ACCUSED JESUS OF NOT BEING GOD, THROUGH YOUR WILLFUL SIN? REPENT TODAY.
2. HOW HAVE YOU JOINED THE MOCKERY OF JESUS IN RECENT WEEKS, THROUGH FAVORING YOUR REIGN OVER HIS? REPENT TODAY.
3. THROUGH WHAT WORDS AND ACTIONS HAVE YOU DENIED JESUS AS YOUR LORD, SAVIOR, AND FRIEND? REPENT TODAY.

