

Under Pressure

Mark 14:53-15:15

The Religious Leaders

(Mark 14:53-65)

- Pressure: Potential loss of power and position
- Reaction: Short-cuts and compromises

The Apostle Peter

(Mark 14:66-72)

- Pressure: Potential loss of freedom or life itself
- Response: Distance and denial

The Roman Governor Pontius Pilate

(Mark 15:1-15)

- Pressure: Potential loss of control and public favor
- Reaction: Political expediency

Postscript

The presence of Jesus brings pressure. When we stumble under that pressure we look to our...

- Source of hope: Jesus, faithful and true (Rev 1:5, 19:11)
- Source of power: The indwelling Spirit (Acts 1:8, 4:8)

For Life Group Discussion

Mark 14:53-15:15

1. Do you think its fair to say that Jesus brings pressure in our lives? What about Matthew 11:28-30? How do these two ideas fit together?
2. Read Mark 14:43-65. The Leaders compromised as they sought to maintain power and position. How are we tempted in a similar way when we fear the loss of something precious? Do the ends ever justify the means?
3. Read Mark 14:66-72. Have you ever been tempted to distance yourself from Jesus? When is it difficult for you to speak openly about your faith? Give examples.
4. Read Mark 15:1-15. When faced with a difficult choice, Pilate does what is convenient instead of what is morally right. When do you feel the strongest temptation to take the easy way out?
5. Read John 21:15-17. What is the connection between this passage and Mark 14: 66-72? How can we draw encouragement from this interaction when we fail under pressure?
6. Read Rev 1:5 & 19:11, then Acts 1:8 & 4:8. How can these verses encourage us, despite our shortcomings as human beings? How can they help us move past failure and move forward in faith?