

SERIES: **The Jesus Journey**

TEXT: **Mark 14:53-65**

A Supreme Court decision can have an impact that affects millions of people outside of the courtroom.

- Brown V. Board of Education (1954) declared racial segregation in public schools unconstitutional
- Mirand V. Arizona (1966) established requirement that police inform suspects of constitutional rights before an investigation
- Loving V. Virginia (1967) struck down laws banning interracial marriage
- Roe V. Wade (1973) declared abortion a constitutional right
- Dobbs V. Jackson Women's Health Organization (2022) overturned Roe V Wade

There has never been a more far-reaching verdict, than that of the trial of Jesus:  
His condemnation would result in our justification

TITLE: **Jesus on Trial**

**Mark 10:33-34** "See, we are going up to Jerusalem. The Son of Man will be handed over to the chief priests and the scribes, and they will condemn him to death. Then they will hand him over to the Gentiles, <sup>34</sup>and they will mock him, spit on him, flog him, and kill him, and he will rise after three days."

This is now unfolding- let's go through the text, then I'd like to pull from the passage 3 truths to focus on and conclude with 4 implications for us

**Mark 14:53** They led Jesus away to the high priest, and all the chief priests, the elders, and the scribes assembled. Sanhedrin- highest 1<sup>st</sup> century Jewish ruling court (under Rome)- 'The best of the best'

**Mark 14:54** Peter followed him at a distance, right into the high priest's courtyard. He was sitting with the servants, warming himself by the fire.

We'll touch more on Peter next week; distance will soon become denial

**Mark 14:55-59** The chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin were looking for testimony against Jesus to put him to death, but they could not find any. <sup>56</sup>For many were giving false testimony against him, and the testimonies did not agree. <sup>57</sup>Some stood up and gave false testimony against him, stating, <sup>58</sup>"We heard him say, 'I will destroy this temple made with human hands, and in three days I will build another not made by hands.'" <sup>59</sup>Yet their testimony did not agree even on this.

This is a trial in which the Sanhedrin is violating their own procedures.

- Capital punishment cases were to take place in the day, not at night, and in the Temple not the High Priest's residence
- The case must begin with arguments for acquittal, not seeking evidence for conviction
- The witnesses were to undergo careful examination and interrogation
- A guilty verdict cannot be rendered the same day, a second seating was necessary

Their minds are made up prior- Mark has told us several times that they were looking for an opportunity to put Him to death

**Mark 14:60-61** Then the high priest stood up before them all and questioned Jesus, “Don’t you have an answer to what these men are testifying against you?” <sup>61</sup> But he kept silent and did not answer.

**Isaiah 53:7** He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth.

Like a lamb led to the slaughter and like a sheep silent before her shearers, he did not open his mouth.

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

Throughout the book of Mark Jesus has asked those He healed to keep silent about His identity, but now the time for Messianic secret has come to an end

**Mark 14:62** “I am,” said Jesus, “and you will see **the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power and coming with the clouds of heaven.**”

Jesus declares His identity as Messiah only when there is no possibility that the crowds will rise up to crown Him

He combines Messianic tradition of Psalm 110 with apocalyptic tradition of Daniel 7

**Psalm 110:1** This is the declaration of the Lord to my Lord:

“Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies your footstool.”

They understood this Psalm to point to the Messiah they expected.

What they didn’t account for is that the Messiah that would come would be God Himself-

**Daniel 7:13-14** I continued watching in the night visions, and suddenly one like a son of man was coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was escorted before him. <sup>14</sup> He was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, so that those of every people, nation, and language should serve him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will not be destroyed.

It is this claim, that Jesus is not only the Messiah but God Himself, that they find so outrageous they will condemn Him to death for.

**Mark 14:63-64** Then the high priest tore his robes

The robes of the priests were commanded in the O.T. to be made in such a way that tearing should have been improbable. But ironically in tearing his robes, God was tearing the priesthood from them.

and said, “Why do we still need witnesses? <sup>64</sup> You have heard the blasphemy. What is your decision?”

They all condemned him as deserving death.

Jesus faced the trial alone- all spoke against Him, no one defended Him

**Mark 14:65** Then some began to spit on him, to blindfold him, and to beat him, saying, “Prophecy!” The temple servants also took him and slapped him.

The blindfolded Jesus is the only one who sees, all others are blindfolded by their hatred

The Messiah is less than what many hoped- He did not exert His power to strike down any person;

But the Messiah is more than what any hoped- He does exercise the power of God, but God’s power is revealed in weakness

This should inform how we look for God’s power at work in our own lives

One of the common reactions to reading passages like these, are that we are quick to blame those we think are responsible, while acquitting and distancing ourselves

*Schweizer- “Whoever is conscious of his own negligence in obedience, of his own failure to love, of the lethargy of his own heart in the midst of the demands of everyday life, cannot escape from his responsibility before God for Jesus’ death by fixing the blame upon some other person”*

Three truths:

## 1. Jesus is God, and therefore He is worthy of our worship

Contrary to what many skeptics claim, the Bible explicitly identifies Jesus as God. Here's a few passages:

**John 1:1** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

**John 20:28** Thomas responded to him, 'My Lord and my God!'

**Romans 9:5** They are Israelites, and to them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the temple service, and the promises. The ancestors are theirs, and from them, by physical descent, came the Christ, who is God over all, praised forever. Amen.

**Titus 2:13** while we wait for the blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

**Hebrews 1:8** but to the Son: Your throne, God, is for ever and ever, and the sceptre of your kingdom is a sceptre of justice.

**Hebrews 1:10** And: In the beginning, Lord, you established the earth, and the heavens are the works of your hands

**2 Peter 1:1** Simeon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ: To those who have received a faith equal to ours through the righteousness of our God and Saviour Jesus Christ.

**1 John 5:20** And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding so that we may know the true one. We are in the true one – that is, in his Son, Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life.

John Piper- "If you want to know if someone in another religion, or no religion, honors God (has a true worshipful relationship with God), the test that you use to know this is: Do they honor Jesus for who he really is—as the divine Son of God, the Messiah, the crucified and risen Savior of the world, the Lord of the universe and Judge of all human beings? If they don't, then they don't honor God."

## 2. Jesus is the Judge of the world, and therefore we are subject to His judgment

That day they judged Him, and many still put Jesus under trial to their own ignorance, but the day is coming when He will judge every man. Again, just a few of many passages:

**Acts 10:42** He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one appointed by God to be the judge of the living and the dead.

**John 5:22** The Father, in fact, judges no one but has given all judgment to the Son,

**Acts 17:30-31** "Therefore, having overlooked the times of ignorance, God now commands all people everywhere to repent, <sup>31</sup>because he has set a day when he is going to judge the world in righteousness by the man he has appointed. He has provided proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead."

**2 Corinthians 5:10** For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each may be repaid for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.

If Jesus is God, He knows every sin we've committed; if He's the Judge, He will hold each of us accountable. So how can we reconcile this with the message of the Gospel?

### 3. Jesus bears the cost of mercy therefore we stand forgiven because He stood condemned

God didn't ignore justice, as the Sanhedrin did. That's not what Mercy means for you and I. He satisfied justice by bearing our guilt on Himself! Mercy means He dealt with our guilt Himself.

**1 Peter 2:21-25** For you were called to this, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps. <sup>22</sup>He did not commit sin, **and no deceit was found in his mouth;** <sup>23</sup>when he was insulted, he did not insult in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten but entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. <sup>24</sup>He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree; so that, having died to sins, we might live for righteousness. **By his wounds you have been healed.** <sup>25</sup>For you **were like sheep going astray**, but you have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

He had justice without mercy that we might receive mercy without justice

How Deep the Father's Love- *Why should I gain from His reward?  
I cannot give an answer;  
But this I know with all my heart –  
His wounds have paid my ransom.*

These three truths ought to catapult our fears and failures into reverence and rejoicing

4 Implications:

- **The guilty can go from condemnation to confidence**
- **The shamed can go from hiding to abiding**
- **The restless can go from striving to resting**
- **The unsure can go from fear-driven to gratitude-living**

Jesus, the judge of the world, was put on trial and found guilty though He was innocent, so that guilty sinners might receive mercy when He executes judgment

**Romans 8:33-34** Who can bring an accusation against God's elect? God is the one who justifies. <sup>34</sup>Who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is the one who died, but even more, has been raised; he also is at the right hand of God and intercedes for us.

#### CALL UP WORSHIP TEAM

I have a friend who was convicted of manslaughter and when released on parole, was then convicted of assault with a deadly weapon. Somehow, he gained his freedom again many years later.

Some of you may hear that and think "*People like that shouldn't be let out*".

I don't oppose that argument, but I do find it humbling that I wouldn't make the same protest to God who has pardoned me.

The question before us is this: ***what kind of life will you live now that you have been pardoned?***

Invitation to salvation

BULPEN-

V58- Mark has made it a theme that Jesus is replacing the place where humanity meets with God

V61- 'Blessed One'= God

V65- Matthew 26:68; Luke 22:64

Peter warmed himself at the enemy's fire- next week we'll see what happens when weak men put themselves in near the fire of the enemy

No fault found- He is rightfully our substitutionary lamb

2 court rooms- the High priest and Heavens (Daniel 7)

His crime, claiming not only to be the Messiah, but God

Hyperstatic union- humanity and divinity, fully not in part

If Jesus is God, then:

- He deserves not only to be admired but worshipped
- The Old Testament should be read with His life and work as the backdrop
- His commands have enormous weight on us
- Salvation is received not earned, substitutionary not self-attained, irrevocable not uncertain