

## The Trial of the King – Mark 14: 53 – 65

Something in the core of our being hates injustice. When we see a wrong being done, we want to cry out for our rights, for justice to be done. We want fairness. Nelson Mandela confronted the racial injustice in South Africa and served 27 years in prison yet eventually became the President. His story is shocking and inspirational but it's nothing compared to the judgement and the victory of Christ..

### 1) The Injustice of the Trial

This is the first of six trials that Jesus would face before His crucifixion. Jesus has just been arrested and is taken straight away to stand trial. But not a trial we would accept. Certainly not a trial that God had in mind in Deuteronomy 16. Brought to the Sanhedrin, Jesus faced no charge. Instead, the whole Sanhedrin were looking for evidence to match a guilty verdict, and a sentence of death. They broke nearly all the rules, even encouraging false testimony. This trial was a sham; a mess from beginning to end. Jesus' response: to say nothing. He didn't argue, fight His case, or point out the illegalities of His trial. Jesus stood firm. Not fazed by the accusations because He knew they were false. He stayed silent, patient in affliction trusting in the word of God.

The devil works by deception, he is known as the accuser and the Father of lies. His accusations are the flaming arrows of the evil one we read of in Ephesians 6, that we take up the shield of faith against. We need, like Jesus, to hold onto the truths in Scripture and stand firm, so that the accusations will not cause us to stumble..

**Q. How does Jesus' silence in response the injustice of His challenge us?**

**Q. What are the accusations/lies that most affect you? What are the truths that God speaks that you need to hold on to?**

### 2) The Justice of the King

Jesus is holding on to Scriptural truth, it's the reason He did not need to defend Himself. Jesus is then confronted with the question, 'Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?' (v61). They have no evidence and are still trying to pin something significant on Jesus to secure his death sentence.. This question was not about Jesus' divinity. Instead it was about a threat to the Roman occupation – a reason for the Romans to give the death penalty. Jesus finally has a truthful accusation to which He can respond (v62). Here the high priest is trying to find evidence of political threat to Rome and out of nowhere Jesus reveals himself, of his own volition, to be the Son of God knowing that it will lead him to the cross.

The truth Jesus knew was that even though he was being tried unjustly he would come back in glory and be the judge of all mankind (Matt 25). And Jesus' response to this injustice, is to agree with us that someone's got to pay! Someone has to answer for all the injustice in the world, poverty, sexual exploitation, cancer etc. His response is to lay down the right to His life, to be the payment for all the injustice of this world. God isn't neutral about injustice, he's angry! Jesus, the King of Justice, humbled himself, submitted himself to this unjust court, bearing the wrath of God toward sin and injustice so that all who believe in him will inherit a just kingdom that has been prepared before the creation of the world.

**Q. How does Jesus' resolve to hold on to the truth, despite the consequence, encourage us in times of trial?**

**Q. How does a just God provide comfort to us in our unjust world?**

### 3) The Judgement of the Judge

The Sanhedrin all turned on Jesus. Not because He blasphemed, as they were already seeking to put Him to death. Jesus was threatening their way of life; their elevated position, power, and control. We can be guilty of turning into judges when challenges come to us, when things get tough, or don't work out as we expected or when the Bible tells us how to conduct our lives, we can judge God. "You don't want me to be happy", "You don't understand what it's like for me", "You don't realise the injustice against me" and we hurl false accusations instead of believing scriptural truth about God.

The trial ends with the one who will come to judge the world, Himself being judged by it, and sentenced to death. Jesus paid that penalty we deserve, satisfying God's wrath, so that we could live free from fear of judgement, now and forever. The judgement on us has been served and Christ has paid the sentence. This means you need to stop judging yourself, stop beating yourself up for you sins and failures, stop letting them hold you back in your walk with Christ. You need to stop letting other people's judgements of you matter, and you need to stop judging others and leave that to Christ. We don't get to judge anymore; we don't get to put anyone on trial. Everyone has been tried and all deserve death, that's the only just response by a Holy and Just God but Jesus gladly pays that price for us.

**Q. Can you remember a time when you've judged God? How should we respond to challenges of Scripture we don't like?**

**Q. How does the fact that all have stood trial and all are guilty, affect how we should relate to God and others?**