

Intro to Mark 14:53-65

Sunday, March 12, 2017
Pastor Don Denyes

What we think about Jesus is the most important thing about us. If the Gospel of Mark has raised any question it is this: who do you say that Jesus is? The answer to that question literally carries with it implications for life and death. The difficulty with answering it is that we all come with pre-conceived notions about who Jesus is. We have been influenced by any number of secular sources that talk about Jesus and we are continuously under the influence of a heart and mind which have been rightly called “idol factories.”

This passage in Mark 14 gives us yet another opportunity to determine who Jesus is. And it gives us yet another opportunity to decide whom we will follow. Are we going to conclude that Jesus is who He said He is—namely that He is the Messiah, the Son of God, the Son of Man (and treat Him accordingly)? Or are we doing to settle for following those who need to fabricate stories about Jesus in order to make Him more palatable to our sinful desires? Or are we going to decide to disregard the testimony about Him altogether? Of course, there are times when we will not obey Him perfectly, but there is a difference between those who earnestly desire to worship Jesus as Lord and Savior and those who do not.

Context

Jesus has been arrested in the Garden of Gethsemane. His disciples have all but abandoned Him. Peter has crept into the courtyard of the high priest, but all other have fled the scene. He is alone with those who have despised Him for years. These are people who are jealous of Him, who are skeptical of Him, and people who outright hate Him. And yet, Jesus endured the shame of it all, because He knew that the trial would end in His death and atonement for the sins of humanity. The Jewish leaders ironically thought that Jesus played straight into their hands, but in fact it was they who were playing straight into God the Father’s plan of redemption!

Read and Reflect *(Use this section to write down any thoughts you had on the sermon. Make sure to note any questions you had about something in the passage or in the sermon.)*

Read Mark 14:53-65

“Jesus on Trial”

- I. False Witnesses
 - a. Their predetermined opinion of Him
 - b. Their desire to silence Him

- II. True Witness
 - a. Anointed Messiah
 - b. Son of God
 - c. Son of Man

Discuss

- 1) How would you react if someone was deliberately telling lies about you to someone you love? What if a person you love was the one telling the lies?

- 2) Read Deuteronomy 17:2-7. How would you describe the legal process prescribed there? And how does it compare with what the Jewish leaders did with Jesus?

- 3) Pastor Don used three TV illustrations to describe how people view Jesus wrongly (Mr. Rogers, “I Dream of Genie”, and “Let’s Make a Deal”). In what other ways have you seen Jesus misrepresented?

- 4) Read Isaiah 52:7-10; Psalm 110:1-7; Daniel 7:13-14. How do those passages shed light on what the true testimony about who Jesus is? (Think of Jesus’ own response in Mark 14:62).

- 5) Do you tend to relate to Jesus as He truly is or do you tend to relate to Him in a way that misrepresents Him? How can we encourage one another to relate to Jesus more and more as He truly is and to stop relating to Him in any other way?