

**"His Final Day"**  
**(The Condemnation of Jesus)**  
**Wednesday, March 10, 2021**

- \* After celebrating Passover with His disciples, Jesus and the twelve made the 20-minute walk to the Garden of Gethsemane.
- \* We have witnessed the struggle Jesus as He begins dealing with our redemption and starts His disconnect from this world!
- \* At midnight the guards arrested Him and takes Him away. This begins the condemnation of our Lord.

Mark 14:53, 55, 61-68, 70-72

**53** They took Jesus to the high priest's home where the leading priests, the elders, and the teachers of religious law had gathered.

**55** Inside, the leading priests and the entire high council were trying to find evidence against Jesus, so they could put him to death. But they couldn't find any.

**61** But Jesus was silent and made no reply. Then the high priest asked him, "Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?" **62** Jesus said, "I am. And you will see the Son of Man seated in the place of power at God's right hand and coming on the clouds of heaven." **63** Then the high priest tore his clothing to show his horror and said, "Why do we need other witnesses? **64** You have all heard his blasphemy. What is your verdict?"

"Guilty!" they all cried. "He deserves to die!" **65** Then some of them began to spit at him, and they blindfolded him and beat him with their fists. "Prophecy to us," they jeered. And the guards slapped him as they took him away. **66** Meanwhile, Peter was in the courtyard below. One of the servant girls who worked for the high priest came by **67** and noticed Peter warming himself at the fire. She looked at him closely and said, "You were one of those with Jesus of Nazareth." **68** But Peter denied it. "I don't know what you're talking about," he said, and he went out into the entryway. Just then, a rooster crowed. **70** But Peter denied it again. A little later some of the other bystanders confronted Peter and said, "You must be one of them, because you are a Galilean." **71** Peter swore, "A curse on me if I'm lying—I don't know this man you're talking about!" **72** And immediately the rooster crowed the second time.

Suddenly, Jesus' words flashed through Peter's mind: "Before the rooster crows twice, you will deny three times that you even know me." And he broke down and wept.

#### I. Jesus' trial before Caiaphas the High Priest!

A. Bound hand and foot, the Temple Guards escorted Jesus back toward the city walls of Jerusalem.

1. Jesus could look across the small Kieron Valley and see the wall of the Temple where He had taught all week.
2. The disciples who had accompanied Him had now fled, denying the Lord for the sake of self-preservation.
3. He passed the gates where Ezekiel said that one day the Messiah would place His feet!
4. He then passed the pinnacle of the Temple where Satan had tempted Him to declare Himself as the Messiah!!

B. They finally arrived at Caiaphas' house.

1. The Sanhedrin, The Jewish ruling council, had assembled in the great hall of the High Priest's house.
2. Today there stands a church called St. Peter's Gallicantu, which means "the place the cock crowed".
3. Below ground was a prison cell made from an old cistern. There Jesus was kept while others decided His fate!
4. As with other Jewish traditions, Jesus might have prayed...

Psalm 88:1-4

**1** O Lord, God of my salvation, I cry out to you by day. I come to you at night.  
**2** Now hear my prayer; listen to my cry. **3** For my life is full of troubles, and death draws near. **4** I am as good as dead, like a strong man with no strength left.

5. The Sanhedrin consisted of 71 elders. This council was from God's command to Moses!

Numbers 11:16

**16** Then the Lord said to Moses, "Gather before me seventy men who are recognized as elders and leaders of Israel. Bring them to the Tabernacle to stand there with you.

6. They normally met during the day and never during a festival.
7. This points to the unorthodox and urgent dealings with Jesus!

C. The God of the universe chose to walk in human flesh!

1. Don't miss the irony here! Jesus wasn't arrested by "sinners", but rather the religious and pious and those who should have recognized "God in flesh". The God the worshipped and served was standing in front of them.
2. The actually put God on trial for blasphemy!

Mark 14:63-65

**63** Then the high priest tore his clothing to show his horror and said, "Why do we need other witnesses? **64** You have all heard his blasphemy. What is your verdict "Guilty!" they all cried. "He deserves to die!" **65** Then some of them began to spit at him, and they blindfolded him and beat him with their fists. "Prophecy to us," they jeered. And the guards slapped him as they took him away.

3. The question is: How could 71 righteous men, dedicated to God, do what these men did?
4. Fear? Could their action of spitting, mocking and blindfolding be motivated by their fear of losing control?

Mark 1:27-28

**27** Amazement gripped the audience, and they began to discuss what had happened. “What sort of new teaching is this?” they asked excitedly. “It has such authority! Even evil spirits obey his orders!” **28** The news about Jesus spread quickly throughout the entire region of Galilee.

5. They declared, “This man is dangerous!”

## II. God in plain sight!

1 John 4:16-20

**16** We know how much God loves us, and we have put our trust in his love. God is love, and all who live in love live in God, and God lives in them. **17** And as we live in God, our love grows more perfect. So we will not be afraid on the day of judgment, but we can face him with confidence because we live like Jesus here in this world. **18** Such love has no fear, because perfect love expels all fear. If we are afraid, it is for fear of punishment, and this shows that we have not fully experienced his perfect love. **19** We love each other because he loved us first. **20** If someone says, “I love God,” but hates a fellow believer, that person is a liar; for if we don’t love people we can see, how can we love God, whom we cannot see?

A. We falsely believe that life would be so easy if God would just make Himself plain!

1. He did that once and look what we did!
2. Surely at least some of the Sanhedrin wondered if this could be the true Messiah.
3. Maybe the “fear of the masses” kept them quiet!

B. The charges of blasphemy are made!

Mark 14:61-63

**61** But Jesus was silent and made no reply. Then the high priest asked him, “Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?” **62** Jesus said, “I am. And

you will see the Son of Man seated in the place of power at God's right hand and coming on the clouds of heaven." **63** Then the high priest tore his clothing to show his horror and said, "Why do we need other witnesses?"

C. There are three parts to the charges as Jesus answered the question, "Are You the Christ?"

1. "I am"- The significance of these words goes back 1,200 years!

- a) Moses saw a burning bush.
- b) God responded to Moses by saying, "I Am!"
- c) In Hebrew it is a personal name for God!
- d) It seems Mark intended for us to connect Jesus' words to what God told Moses when He said, "I am the source of life."

2. The next thing Jesus said was, "...you will see the Son of Man coming in the clouds."

- a) As students of the Scriptures, the Sanhedrin would have realized that Jesus was referring to Daniel 7:13-14.

**13** As my vision continued that night, I saw someone like a son of man coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient One and was led into his presence. **14** He was given authority, honor, and sovereignty over all the nations of the world, so that people of every race and nation and language would obey him. His rule is eternal—it will never end. His kingdom will never be destroyed.

- b) Jesus was identifying Himself as the Messiah Daniel is describing.

3. Jesus also says they would see Him "seated at the right hand of power"!

a) Might they have thought of Psalms 110:1-4?

1 The Lord said to my Lord, “Sit in the place of honor at my right hand until I humble your enemies, making them a footstool under your feet.”

**2** The Lord will extend your powerful kingdom from Jerusalem; you will rule over your enemies. **3** When you go to war, your people will serve you willingly. You are arrayed in holy garments, and your strength will be renewed each day like the morning dew. **4** The Lord has taken an oath and will not break his vow: “You are a priest forever in the order of Melchizedek.”

b) Could they have been thinking, “just who are the enemies who will be His footstool?”

c) Jesus was identifying Himself as the “one before time” when it refers to Melchizedek.

D. This drama ends on the saddest of notes!

1. The Sanhedrin had denied Jesus as the Christ, but now His closest friend had denied Him!

Mark 14:66-72

**66** Meanwhile, Peter was in the courtyard below. One of the servant girls who worked for the high priest came by **67** and noticed Peter warming himself at the fire. She looked at him closely and said, “You were one of those with Jesus of Nazareth.” **68** But Peter denied it. “I don’t know what you’re talking about,” he said, and he went out into the entryway. Just then, a rooster crowed.

**69** When the servant girl saw him standing there, she began telling the others, “This man is definitely one of them!” **70** But Peter denied it again. A little later some of the other bystanders confronted Peter and said, “You must be one of them, because you are a Galilean.” **71** Peter swore, “A curse on me if I’m lying—I don’t know this man you’re talking about!” **72** And immediately the rooster crowed the second time. Suddenly, Jesus’ words flashed through Peter’s mind: “Before the rooster crows twice, you will deny three times that you even know me.” And he broke down and wept.

2. This is the SAME PETER that drew his sword and was ready to fight a little while earlier!
3. This GUT-WRENCHING event is why Jesus responds the way He does when referring to Peter!

Mark 16:7

**7** Now go and tell his disciples, including Peter, that Jesus is going ahead of you to Galilee. You will see him there, just as he told you before he died.”

...including Peter

...and you

...and me!