

# Jesus Before the High Priest

## Peter's Denial

Matthew 26:57-75; Mark 14:53-72; Luke 22:54-71; John 18:12-27

Think of two words that together describe the pictures' relationship together.

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_  
(sin & forgiveness)

### The Story - A Harmony of the Gospels

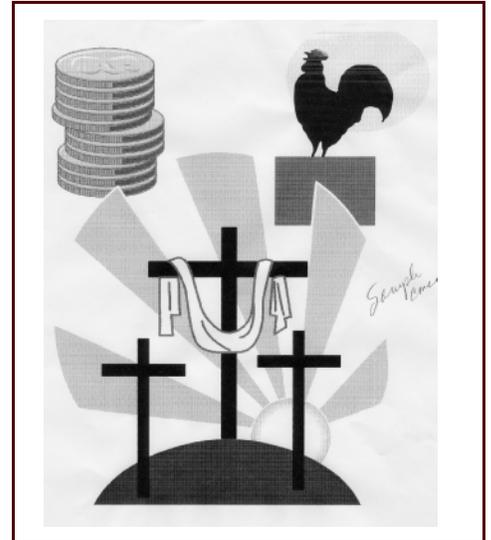
And they led Him away to Annas first, for he was the father-in-law of Caiaphas who was high priest that year. Now it was Caiaphas who advised the Jews that it was expedient that one man should die for the people. Peter followed Him at a distance to the high priest's courtyard. And he went in and sat with the servants and warmed himself at the fire.

The high priest then asked Jesus about His disciples and His doctrine. Jesus answered him, "I spoke openly to the world. I always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where the Jews always meet, and in secret I have said nothing. Why do you ask Me? Ask those who have heard Me what I said to them. Indeed they know what I said." And when He had said these things, one of the officers who stood by struck Jesus with the palm of his hand, saying, "Do You answer the high priest like that?" Jesus answered him, "If I have spoken evil, bear witness of the evil; but if well, why do you strike Me?" Then Annas sent Him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.

Now the chief priests, the elders, and all the council sought false testimony

against Jesus to put Him to death, but found none. Even though many false witnesses came forward, they found none. But at last two false witnesses came forward and said, "This fellow said, 'I am able to destroy the temple of God and to build it in three days.' " Not even then did their testimony agree. And the high priest arose and said to Him, "Do You answer nothing? What is it these men testify against You?" But Jesus kept silent.

And the high priest answered and said to Him, "I put You under oath by the living God: Tell us if You are the Christ, the Son of God!" Jesus said to him, "*It is as you said. Nevertheless, I say to you, hereafter you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Power, and coming on the clouds of heaven.*" Then the high priest tore his clothes, saying, "He has spoken blasphemy! What further need do we have of witnesses? Look, now you have heard His blasphemy! What do you think?" They answered and said, "He is deserving of



death." Then they spat in His face and beat Him; and others struck *Him* with the palms of their hands, saying, "Prophecy to us, Christ! Who is the one who struck You?" Now the men who held Jesus mocked Him and beat Him. And having blindfolded Him, they struck Him on the face and asked Him, saying, "Prophecy! Who is the one who struck You?" And many other things they blasphemously spoke against Him.

Now as Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant girls of the high priest came. And when she saw Peter warming himself, she looked at him and said, "You also were with Jesus of Nazareth." But he denied it, saying, "I neither know nor understand what you are saying." And he went out on the porch, and a rooster crowed. And the servant girl saw him again, and began to say to those who stood by, "This is one of them." But he denied it again.

And a little later those who stood by said to Peter again, "Surely you are one of them; for you are a Galilean, and your speech shows *it*." Then he began to curse and swear, "I do not know this Man of whom you speak!" A second time *the* rooster crowed.

And the Lord turned and looked at Peter. And Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how He had said to him, "**Before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times.**" So Peter went out and wept bitterly.

As soon as it was day, the elders of

the people, both chief priests and scribes, came together and led Him into their council, saying, "**If You are the Christ, tell us.**" But He said to them, "**If I tell you, you will by no means believe. And if I also ask you, you will by no means answer Me or let Me go. Hereafter the Son of Man will sit on the right hand of the power of God.**" Then they all said, "Are You then the Son of God?" So He said to them, "**You rightly say that I am.**" And they said, "What further testimony do we need? For we have heard it ourselves from His own mouth."

Then Judas, His betrayer, seeing that He had been condemned, was remorseful and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, saying, "I have sinned by betraying innocent blood." And they said, "What is *that* to us? You see *to it!*" Then he threw down the pieces of silver in the temple and departed, and went and hanged himself.

But the chief priests took the silver pieces and said, "It is not lawful to put them into the treasury, because they are the price of blood." And they consulted together and bought with them the potter's field, to bury strangers in. Therefore that field has been called the Field of Blood to this day. Then was fulfilled what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying, "And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the value of Him who was priced, whom they of the children of Israel priced, and gave them for the potter's field, as the LORD directed me."

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## Outer Aim

**Jesus was tried and abused by the Jews and denied by Peter.**

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**Story Details** - The arrest of Jesus was the beginning of many events that led to Jesus' death. Put these events in order as to when they happened.

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|--|--|
| _____ Jesus led to the Council of the Elders | _____ Jesus turns toward Peter               |
| _____ Jesus before Caiaphas, the High Priest | _____ Judas throws down the silver pieces    |
| _____ Peter denies knowing Jesus             | _____ Jesus in front of Annas                |
| _____ Jesus accused of blasphemy             | _____ Rooster crows for the second time      |
| _____ False witnesses sought against Jesus   | _____ Jesus asked to prophesy who struck Him |
| _____ Peter weeps bitterly                   | _____ Judas hangs himself                    |

**Matching** - Match to whom Jesus said these words by drawing lines between items.

- |                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| To Peter•                 | • Jesus said, "I spoke openly to the world..."                 |
| To Caiaphas•              | • Jesus said, "It is as you said..."                           |
| To the Council of Elders• | • Jesus said, "Before the rooster crows..."                    |
| To Annas•                 | • Jesus said, "If I tell you, you will by no means believe..." |

## Passage

Isaiah prophesied of Jesus' arrest and trial in Isaiah 53:7 -

**"He was oppressed and He was afflicted, yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so He opened not His mouth."**

How does this prophesy fit in today's story?

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## Inner Aim

**Though forsaken and abused by all mankind, Jesus chose to lay down His life for us all.**

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## How Does This Apply To Us

The trial continued and Jesus was pronounced guilty of blasphemy which is punishable by death. The Jewish leaders were willing to go against their own laws. They wanted to get rid of Jesus that badly. List some things and ways that the world tempts us to the point that we sin to get them.

## What God Says To Us

Peter and Judas both betrayed Jesus, one with words and the other with money. Peter felt deep sorrow for what he had done and repented. Judas felt sorrow for what he had done and tried to correct the sin by returning the silver. When the council didn't care because they had what they wanted, Judas went out in despair and hung himself. Peter was forgiven because he believed Jesus' promise of forgiveness and salvation. Judas relied on himself to fix the situation and failed in life and in eternity.

Today's world is very tempting and we daily sin and need forgiveness. There are many false thoughts regarding sin. Name a few of these false thoughts and explain why they are false.

## Prayer

End with Hymn 151 vs. 1 and 7.

Christ the Life of all the living,  
Christ the Death of death, our foe,  
Who, Thyself for me once giving  
To the darkest depths of woe -  
Thro Thy suff-rings, death and merit  
I eternal life inherit:  
Thousand, thousand, thanks shall be,  
Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

Then, for all that wrought my pardon,  
For Thy sorrows deep and sore,  
For Thine anguish in the Garden,  
I will thank Thee evermore,  
Thank Thee for Thy groaning, sighing,  
For Thy bleeding and Thy dying,  
For that last triumphant cry,  
And shall praise Thee, Lord, on high.