

# Jesus Before the High Priest

## Peter's Denial

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

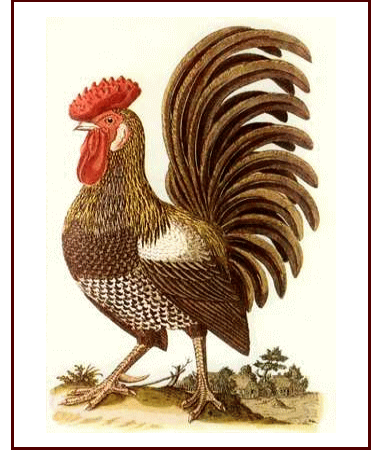
What does the sound of a rooster mean on a farm?

What did the rooster's crow mean to Peter as he stood in the courtyard of the high priest?

### Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father,

We can't begin to imagine the loneliness and pain felt by Your Son, Jesus, as He was rejected and denied before His death. He even loved us sinners enough to die for us. Thank You, Lord, for sending Him to us, so that we will never know that feeling of complete rejection, but always have the certain knowledge of forgiveness through Him. In Jesus' name, Amen.



### The Story - A Harmony of the Gospels

After Jesus was arrested, the soldiers and the chief priests led him to Annas. He was the father-in-law of the high priest, Caiaphas. Peter followed them at a distance to the high priest's courtyard, where he went in and sat with the servants warming themselves at the fire.

Annas 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."

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.

Now the chief priests, the elders, and all the council looked for false witnesses to tell lies about Jesus so He'd be put to death, but they found none. Finally two false witnesses came forward, but their stories didn't agree. At last they said, "This man said He could destroy the temple and build it in three days." The high priest said to



Jesus, "Do You answer nothing?" Jesus kept silent.

Caiaphas said, "I put You under oath by the living God: Tell us if You are the Christ, the Son of God!" Jesus answered, "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, "We don't need any more witnesses. He has spoken blasphemy!" The others agreed, saying, "He deserves to die!" Some of the soldiers mocked Jesus, spit on Him, and beat Him. They put a blindfold on Him, hit Him on the face and said, "Prophecy! Who is the one who struck You?"

As Peter was waiting in the courtyard, one of the servant girls of the high priest came. When she saw Peter, she said, "You also were with Jesus of Nazareth." But Peter denied it, saying, "I don't know what you're talking about." He went out on the porch, and the rooster crowed. The servant girl saw him again, and said to those nearby, "This is one of them." But Peter denied it again.

A while 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 Peter began to curse and swear, "I do not know this Man you are talking about!" The rooster crowed again, and the Lord

turned and looked at Peter. Then Peter remembered the words of Jesus, "Before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times." So Peter went out and wept bitterly.

As soon as it was morning, the chief priests and elders came together and led Jesus into their council, saying, "If You are the Christ, tell us." But He said to them, "If I tell you, you will not believe, nor will you let Me go. Hereafter the Son of Man will sit on the right hand of the power of God." They asked, "Are You then the Son of God?" So He said to them, "You rightly say that I am." They said, "What further witnesses do we need? We've heard it ourselves from His own mouth."

Then Judas, seeing that Jesus had been condemned, was full of sadness. He brought the thirty pieces of silver back to the chief priests and elders, saying, "I have sinned by betraying innocent blood." They answered, "What does that matter to us? You see to it!" Judas threw the money down in the temple, left, and hanged himself. The chief priests and elders took the money and bought the potter's field to bury strangers in. From then on, it was known as the Field of Blood. This fulfilled a prophecy by Jeremiah which said, "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."

## **Recalling Details** - Underline the correct choice in each sentence.

1. The soldiers led Jesus first to [Annas – Caiaphas].
2. [Many – Few] false witnesses were found to testify against Jesus.

3. Some of the [chief priests – soldiers] blindfolded, hit, and mocked Jesus.
4. Peter denied Jesus [twice – three times].
5. [Judas – Peter] was so sorrowful, he went and hanged himself.

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### Outer Aim

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

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### Discussion Questions

1. Did Jesus receive a fair trial? Why or why not?
2. What is blasphemy?
3. Why was it impossible for Jesus to be guilty of blasphemy?
4. What was the difference between Judas' sorrow and Peter's sorrow?

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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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## Passages

**2 Corinthians 5:21 – For (God) made Him who knew no sin  
to be sin for us, that we might become  
the righteousness of God in Him.**

**Proverbs 19:5 – A false witness will not go unpunished,  
and he who speaks lies will not escape.**

**Hymn** - Read or sing TLH 143, stanzas 1-3.

O dearest Jesus, what law hast Thou broken  
That such sharp sentence should on Thee be spoken?  
Of what great crime hast Thou to make confession -  
What dark transgression?

Whence come these sorrows, whence this mortal anguish?  
It is my sins for which Thou, Lord, must languish;  
Yea, all the wrath, the woe, Thou dost inherit,  
This I do merit.

1. What was the mood of the writer of this hymn?
2. Stanza 3 asks the question "What is the cause of Jesus' sufferings?" What is the answer, according to the rest of the stanza?

## Prayer

Dear Jesus,

Thank You for suffering so much to pay for my sins. Give me a strong, humble faith that I might never deny You as my Lord and Savior. Help me to remember how important it is for me to boldly tell others that I believe that You are the only Savior of the world. When I do fall into sin, help me to repent of my sins as Peter did, and to be assured that those sins have been forgiven. Amen.