

Close to the Enemy's Fire

Mark 14:53-64

Rich O'Toole

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I. The beginning of the trials. Mark 14:53

"It then moved to the full council to hear witnesses (Mark 14:53-65), and then to an early morning session for the final vote of _____", here in our passage of Mark 15:1. (Warren Wiersbe)

- Jesus was at the beginning _____ of the illegal, immoral treatment and trials from the religious leaders. Soon the Gentiles would be involved, which will culminate with His brutal death.

II. Peter tries to fade into the crowd. Mark 14:54

1. Peter's pride and self-confidence led to his denial of Christ.

Peter's denial began after Jesus' arrest, but his denial was a _____ into sin, which began when Peter argued with the Word of God that came through Jesus. Mark 14:27

2. Peter's _____ led to his denial of Christ. Mark 14:37
3. Peter _____ Jesus from afar led to his denial of Christ.

Satan often uses _____ to sugarcoat things to get us to swallow his poison.

III. False witness testimonies. Mark 14:55-59

The same thing is happening today. People who are opposed to Jesus only listen to the voices of others who affirm their low view of who Jesus is and repeat their _____ towards Jesus.

- "It was harder to agree on a consistent lie than to tell the _____ truth." (Cole)

IV. The final charge against the Lord. Mark 14:60-64

"The cross is the place where the Judge takes the judgment. This was the Father's plan and it was also the Son's willing _____." (Keller)

- The question behind the question from the High Priest is, "Are You the _____ who will reign on the throne of David and over His kingdom, to establish justice and righteousness forever?"

V. Practical Application.

1. Christians should have a _____ regard for the Word of God, as we read it, meditate on it, and trust it for our guidebook.

2. We need a _____ relationship with Jesus, while being careful not to lag behind His leading.
3. If we allow sin to go _____ in our lives, we will begin to live for the flesh and the world.

Small Group Discussion

Looking back at your notes from this week's sermon, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

1. Read Mark 14:53. Who were the people holding this illegal trial? What were the jobs of these leaders?
John 18:13-24, Mark 15:1, Matthew 23:1-11
2. Read Mark 14:54. Discuss the three things listed in point II. of the sermon note sheet that led to Peter's denial of Christ.
Mark 14:27-29, James 4:6, Mark 14:37, Genesis 3:1-5, Deuteronomy 4:2
3. Read Mark 14:55-59. Why wouldn't these testimonies stand up in a fair court of law?
John 2:19, Deuteronomy 5:20, Deuteronomy 19:15
4. Read Mark 14:60-64. Why did Jesus choose to answer the High Priest's final question? What was the actual question behind the question? How did the High Priest's question allow Jesus to reveal His true identity?
Matthew 25:31-32, Isaiah 53:7, John 5:26-27
5. Why was the High Priest so upset with Jesus' answer in Mark 14:62? **Leviticus 10:6, Leviticus 24:16, John 12:42**
6. Discuss the practical application of the sermon.
Psalms 138:2, Psalm 119:105, 2 Timothy 3:16-17