

Study Guide

Mark 14:53-72

Share an experience you had when you were either wrongly accused or betrayed. What life lessons did you learn?

Share a sifting you are or have gone through. What chaff is the Lord removing?

Discussion Questions:

Read Mark 14:53-65

1. What were the two questions Jesus was asked?
2. Why did he answer one and not the other?

Discuss.

3. How is getting baptized by John the Baptist and not answering the question of the High Priest related?
4. How Jesus answered the questions asked of Him is remarkable. Explain/Discuss
5. What can we learn from the fact that Satan had to ask God to sift Peter?
6. In the Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe there is an interesting quote, "Aslan is a lion- the Lion, the great Lion." "Ooh" said Susan. "I'd thought he was a man. Is he quite safe? I shall feel rather nervous about meeting a lion"..."Safe?" said Mr Beaver ..."Who said anything about safe? 'Course he isn't safe. But he's good. He's the King, I tell you."

How is this quote related to being sifted and God's sovereignty and goodness?

7. After Satan demanded to sift Peter, Jesus tells Peter what he prayed for. What is it that Jesus prayed and why is that so important? Explain.

Application:

Pray for someone who may have betrayed or wrongly accused you.
Have you forgiven them?

What sifting are you going through? What chaff is God removing?
Pray for each other as you share some of your siftings.

Message Slides

Mark 14:53-72

Two Questions only One Answer

Three Questions, Three Denials, The Rooster Crows Twice

Jesus before the Council and the Denials of Peter

Jesus Before the Council

“And they led Jesus to the high priest. And all the chief priests and the elders and the scribes came together. And Peter had followed him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest. And he was sitting with the guards and warming himself at the fire. Now the chief priests and the whole council were seeking testimony against Jesus to put him to death, but they found none. For many bore false witness against him, but their testimony did not agree. And some stood up and bore false witness against him, saying, “We heard him say, I will destroy this temple that is made with hands, and in three days I will build another, not made with hands.” Yet even about this their testimony did not agree. And the high priest stood up in the midst and asked Jesus, “Have you no answer to make? What is it that these men testify against you?” But he remained silent and made no answer. Again the high priest asked him, “Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?” And Jesus said, “I am, and you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power, and coming with the clouds of heaven.” And the high priest tore his garments and said, “What further witnesses do we need? You have heard his blasphemy. What is your decision?” And they all condemned him as deserving death. And some began to spit on him and to cover his face and to strike him, saying to him, “Prophecy!” And the guards received him with blows.”

And as Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant girls of the high priest came, and seeing Peter warming himself, she looked at him and said, “You also were with the Nazarene, Jesus.” But he denied it, saying, “I neither know nor understand what you mean.” And he went out into the gateway and the rooster crowed. And the servant girl saw him and began again to say to the bystanders, “This man is one of them.” But again he denied it. And after a little while the bystanders again said to Peter, “Certainly you are one of them, for you are a Galilean.” But he began to invoke a curse on himself and to swear, “I do not know this man of whom you speak.” And immediately the rooster crowed a second time. And Peter remembered how Jesus had said to him, “Before the rooster crows twice, you will deny me three times.” And he broke down and wept.

- I. Sifting by betrayal: a story
- II. Observation #1: There are over 180 questions asked of Jesus recorded in the Gospels. There are only two instances recorded in scripture where Jesus does NOT answer a question asked of him. In these two instances it is the same question. One was asked by the High priest the head of the religious authority and one was asked by Pilate the head of the secular (Roman) authority. Each asked the same question. And in each case he remained silent.

He took the place of sinners at his baptism

Matthew 3:13-17

¹³Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him. ¹⁴John would have prevented him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?” ¹⁵But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness. ”Then he consented. ¹⁶And when Jesus was baptized,

immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him,¹³ and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; ¹⁴and behold, a voice from heaven said, “This is my beloved Son,¹⁵ with whom I am well pleased.”

He took the place of sinners at his trial. (Matt. 3:5,6,13-15)

He was also determined to bear our judgement, condemnation and death.

He accepted the unjust condemnation men testified against him before both the religious and the secular authorities according to scripture and God’s purpose

Isaiah 53:

All we like sheep have gone astray;
 we have turned—every one—to his own way;
 and the Lord has laid on him (Jesus)
 the iniquity of us all.
 He was oppressed, and he was afflicted,
 yet **he opened not his mouth;**
 like a lamb that is led to the slaughter,
 and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent,
 so he **opened not his mouth.**
 By oppression and judgment he was taken away;
 and as for his generation, who considered
 that he was cut off out of the land of the living,
 stricken for the transgression of my people?

III. Observation #2: Jesus is the Christ the Son of the Blessed.

Daniel 7:13

“I saw in the night visions,
 and behold, with the clouds of heaven
 there came one like a son of man,
 and he came to the Ancient of Days
 and was presented before him.

IV. Observation #3: Jesus answers all questions asked of him. Of the nearly 200 questions asked of Jesus he answers all of them except the one asked by Caiaphas and Pilate.

Scripture	Question	Motive	Response	Comment
Mark 10:17	Mark 10:17 The Rich Young Man And as he was setting out on his journey, a man ran	Desire for eternal life? To justify himself	Mark 10:21 And Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, “You lack one thing: go, sell all that you	Get rid of the primary obstacle in your life and follow me.

	up and knelt before him and asked him, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?"		have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me. "	
Mark 11:28	Mark 11:28 and they said to him, "By what authority are you doing these things, or who gave you this authority to do them?"	Assumption/Motive: Jesus has no authority. Lost in their false assumption. Solution: correct the false assumption by recognizing	Mark 11:29-30 Jesus said to them, "I will ask you one question; answer me, and I will tell you by what authority I do these things. Was the baptism of John from heaven or from man? Answer me."	The answer was contingent. Jesus question revealed their duplicity. They did not really want to know by what authority and it is evident in their answer regarding John the Baptist.
Mark 12:13-17	Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?	To trap him in his talk	Render to Caesar the things that Caesar's an to God the things that are God's.	Word of wisdom
Mark 14:60-61	High Priest, "Have you no answer to make? What is it that these men testify against you?"	"seeking testimony against Jesus to put him to death"	No Answer	He intended to accept the false judgement to save us

Peter's Denial: Pride and Promise

V. Observation #4 Satan sifts the children of God:

VI. Observation #5. We are only sifted with God's permission and purpose.

C.S. Lewis, The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe

n is a lion- the Lion, the great Lion." "Ooh" said Susan. "I'd thought he was a man. Is he- quite safe? I shall feel rather nervous about meeting a lion"..."Safe?" said Mr Beaver ..."Who said anything about safe? 'Course he isn't safe. But he's good. He's the King, I tell you."

VII. Observation #6. Jesus has already prayed for Peter. Jesus has already prayed for us, even before the sifting. He prays that our faith will not fail.

VIII. Observation #7: Peter was Proud and self-confident

IX. Observation #8: The sifting humbled Peter but his faith did not fail him.

Conclusion

1. Jesus silence before the Council spoke his purpose for us, to take our sin, judgement, condemnation and death upon himself
2. Jesus answers according to who He is, the motive and genuineness of our questions
3. We will all be sifted
4. Jesus prays that your faith will not fail during your sifting not that you will never sin

