

Mark 10:45 For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.

49- Trials of the Servant Mark 14:53-65; Mark 15:1-5

Mark 14:53-65 And they led Jesus away to the high priest: and with him were assembled all the chief priests and the elders and the scribes. 54 And Peter followed him afar off, even into the palace of the high priest: and he sat with the servants, and warmed himself at the fire. 55 And the chief priests and all the council sought for witness against Jesus to put him to death; and found none. 56 For many bare false witness against him, but their witness agreed not together. 57 And there arose certain, and bare false witness against him, saying, 58 We heard him say, I will destroy this temple that is made with hands, and within three days I will build another made without hands. 59 But neither so did their witness agree together. 60 And the high priest stood up in the midst, and asked Jesus, saying, Answerest thou nothing? what is it which these witness against thee? 61 But he held his peace, and answered nothing. Again the high priest asked him, and said unto him, Art thou the Christ, the Son of the Blessed? 62 And Jesus said, I am: and ye shall see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven. 63 Then the high priest rent his clothes, and saith, What need we any further witnesses? 64 Ye have heard the blasphemy: what think ye? And they all condemned him to be guilty of death. 65 And some began to spit on him, and to cover his face, and to buffet him, and to say unto him, Prophecy: and the servants did strike him with the palms of their hands.

Mark 15:1-5 And straightway in the morning the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council, and bound Jesus, and carried him away, and delivered him to Pilate. 2 And Pilate asked him, Art thou the King of the Jews? And he answering said unto him, Thou sayest it. 3 And the chief priests accused him of many things: but he answered nothing. 4 And Pilate asked him again, saying, Answerest thou nothing? behold how many things they witness against thee. 5 But Jesus yet answered nothing; so that Pilate marvelled.

The darkness got a little darker as Jesus is lead away after he has been betrayed by Judas and deserted by all. The trials of Jesus under the cover of darkness are imminent. We will see a total of three different setting for the trials. First, is before the Sanhedrin of the Jewish leaders. Those were the ones that had been plotting and planning for this moment for months. We will see that Mark also records Jesus before Pilate but not Herod.

I- To the High Priest:

Mark 14:53 And they led Jesus away to the high priest: and with him were assembled all the chief priests and the elders and the scribes.

The high priest had its origin in the religious service but by the time of Christ had become a political appointment. Most high priest were appointed for life but Herod appointed several in the arena of the political world of the time of Christ. Jesus is taken to the high priest with his cohorts waiting to have what is seen by most as a mockery of a trial. He was not going to trail to find the facts but to be convicted without evidence.

II- False Witnesses:

Notice the problem they had finding someone to testify truthfully, not that truth mattered to them.

Mark 14:55 And the chief priests and all the council sought for witness against Jesus to put him to death; and found none. 56 For many bare false witness against him, but their witness agreed not together. 57 And there arose certain, and bare false witness against him, saying, 58 We heard him say, I will destroy this temple that is made with hands, and within three days I will build another made without hands. 59 But neither so did their witness agree together.

The problem they had was that they knew He was guilty but were not sure of what. They keep trying to find some charge to stick and for someone to lie.

Matthew 26:65 Then the high priest rent his clothes, saying, He hath spoken blasphemy; what further need have we of witnesses? behold, now ye have heard his blasphemy.

By the time they got to Herod the charge changed again. *Luke 23:1 And the whole multitude of them arose, and led him unto Pilate.*

III- Silence of the Lamb:

While all this false accusing and lying was going on Jesus stood by silently.

Mark 14:60 And the high priest stood up in the midst, and asked Jesus, saying, Answerest thou nothing? what is it which these witness against thee? 61 But he held his peace, and answered nothing.

We also see Him not defend himself before Pilate. *Mark 15:4 And Pilate asked him again, saying, Answerest thou nothing? behold how many things they witness against thee. 5 But Jesus yet answered nothing; so that Pilate marvelled.*

Mark 10:45 For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.

This again was verification that He was Messiah. Remember the words of Isaiah the prophet in *Isaiah 53:7* **He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth.**

Why? One reason is if He had defended Himself and been set free then you and I would not have been. We will look at this thought next session.

IV- Accused of Being Who He Was:

I find a bit of irony in the accusation that Jesus claimed to be the Messiah. The irony is that they accused Him of being who He was. Jesus breaks the silence to answer the question of if He was the Messiah.

Mark 14:61b Again the high priest asked him, and said unto him, Art thou the Christ, the Son of the Blessed? **62** And Jesus said, I am: and ye shall see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven.

There are some who like to claim that Jesus never claimed to be the Messiah. My question is how on earth you can say that based on this clear assertion of the fact.

This only lead the high priest to become outraged and accuse Him of blasphemy.

Mark 14:63 Then the high priest rent his clothes, and saith, What need we any further witnesses? **64** Ye have heard the blasphemy: what think ye? And they all condemned him to be guilty of death. They all condemned Him to death, the giver of life, condemned to death; the one who is Truth condemned by lies.

V- Cruelty of Humanity:

Mark 14:65 And some began to spit on him, and to cover his face, and to buffet him, and to say unto him, Prophecy: and the servants did strike him with the palms of their hands. Not even considering the lies and false charges we see the sad state of humanity in the events here. This magnifies the point that Jesus came to die not for good men but for the fallen race we know as humanity. One of the great mysteries to me is how humanity can treat other humans with such cruelty.

VI- To Pilate:

As we have stated Jesus is taken to Pilate for a quick trial. **Mark 15:1-5** And straightway in the morning the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council, and bound Jesus, and carried him away, and delivered him to Pilate.

Look at the record of John in his gospel. **John 18: 28-30** Then led they Jesus from Caiaphas unto the hall of judgment: and it was early; and they themselves went not into the judgment hall, lest they should be defiled; but that they might eat the passover. **29** Pilate then went out unto them, and said, What accusation bring ye against this man? **30** They answered and said unto him, If he were not a malefactor, we would not have delivered him up unto thee.

Two things jump out. One is they didn't want to answer why they had brought Jesus and said we brought Him because He is guilty. Also they did not want to let their lying and killing Jesus to get in the way of their religion. Now that is godly is it not?

VII- Are You King of Jews:

Pilate asks Jesus a question different than the others had asked. Are you king of the Jews? **Mark 15:2** And Pilate asked him, Art thou the King of the Jews? And he answering said unto him, Thou sayest it.

Jesus said to him that what he said was true. The reasoning for Pilate to ask this question was that as an agent of Caesar this affected how he would rule. We see that Jesus diffused this accusation by stating from where His kingdom originated.

John 18:36 Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence. Pilate sends him to Herod who sends him back to Pilate. The trials of Jesus were not to find His guilt but to show the guilty of humanity may I suggest.