

## Sermon Discussion Questions

April 3, 2022

Mark 14:53-72

1. Why do you think Jesus was silent while folks were making false accusations about him in the Sanhedrin? What connections can you draw from this to Isaiah 53?

What made Jesus speak up when it was the high priest asking the questions and what do you make of Jesus' answer to him?

2. What irony do you see in the story? What do you make of the religious leaders, including the high priest and the chief priests, convicting Jesus of the crime of blasphemy when all along in Mark's narrative, the story has been about Israel's God coming to his people in the person of Jesus?
3. Let's turn our attention to Peter. Why do you think Mark tells us this detail about Peter in 14:54? Later on, Peter denies Jesus three times and calls down curses on Jesus. This is the last we see of Peter in the story and it seems like just about every disciple of Jesus fails him. What do you think the implications of this are for us? What is good news to the follower of Jesus who fails and falls?
4. It looks like Peter *curses* Jesus in an effort to insulate himself from possible persecution. What connection could you make to what Paul writes in Galatians 3:13?

AW Pink has said, "it is not the absence of sin but the grieving over it which distinguishes the child of God from empty professors." At the end of the passage, Peter broke down and wept. Why do you think he did this? Some have said that contrition is the first part of repentance, would you agree? How is it possible to process our sins and failures without falling into despair?

5. What's the best thing you heard during the sermon? What questions are you leaving this discussion with? As you close, spend some time in prayer, reflecting on both our need to confess our sins as well as God's faithful character.