

Message Notes

Jesus Before the High Priest

Matthew 26:57-68

The Gospel According to Matthew

Pastor Steve Leonard

March 11, 2007

Message Outline

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I. The Lie About Jesus (57-61)

A. Before the Religious Leaders and Peter. (57-58)

B. Failure to Falsify. (59-60)

C. The Lie That Tells the Truth. (61)

II. The Question Put to Jesus (62-63)

A. Question, but No Answer. (62)

B. From Temple to Messiah—Non Sequitor? (63)

III. The Assertion of Jesus (64)

A. No Answer, but Affirmation. (64a)

B. Answer, but Question. (64b)

IV. The Response to Jesus (65-68)

A. Caiaphas' Response

B. The Religious Response

C. Our Response

Growth Group Understanding Questions

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1. Read Matthew 26:57-58 again. Seeing the narrative arc can give us insight into the intended impact of a passage. In your own words, describe the action of each part of the arc in the space below:
 - Setting—
 - Character Development—
 - Rising Conflict—
 - Climax—
 - Resolution—
 - Following Action—
2. Compare Matthew 26:63 with Matt 1:17; 2:4; 11:2; 16:16; 22:42; 23:10; 24:5, 23. What would you guess is one of the themes of Matthew's Gospel account? Now read Matt 27:17, 22. What's different between all the verses before 26:63 and the verses after?
3. Using notes in your Bible, previous reading, friends, or your own best guess, what's the significance of the Temple in Jesus' time? Why are the religious leaders so put out by the accusation about the Temple? Read John 2:19-22. Why does Jesus talk about the Temple? What's he trying to teach about Himself?
4. Explain how an accusation about the Temple, a question about Christ and an Old Testament quote combine to create such contempt for Jesus on the part of the religious leaders.

Growth Group Application Questions

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1. What was the most encouraging or challenging thing about our message/text this week? What was new?
2. Pastor Steve talked about Jesus being a replacement for the Temple. What does that mean for the way we worship God today?
3. Many stories compete for control of our lives—everything from commercials to cultural lessons like George Washington and the cherry tree. What are some cultural stories? If Jesus is the divine king of the world how can we use His story to critique others—how can we become more discerning about these things?
4. In this passage we see the religious leaders actually become enemies of the Lord they serve. How did they end up in this place and how can we end up in this place today as Christians? How do we avoid this trap?
5. Explain the implications of Jesus' quoting of Daniel 7:13 and Psalm 11:1-2 for His identity. (i.e., who does He say He is?) If what he says is true, what does that say about our identity in Him? How should that shape our character?