



THE GOSPEL OF MARK

Seeing Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God



Part 36

"Faithful Testimony & Fearful Denial"

3-27-22

Introduction: Good Peter, Bad Peter

Mark 8:27, 29–27 And Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi. And on the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" ... ²⁹ And he asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "You are the Christ."

Mark 14:29, 31–29 Peter said to him, "Even though they all fall away, I will not." ... ³¹ But he said emphatically, "If I must die with you, I will not deny you." And they all said the same.

Main Point: The sharp contrast between Jesus' faithful declaration of His true _____ and Peter's fearful _____ of Him serve to instruct His followers that we must look away from ourselves and unto Him if we are to live as His faithful witnesses.

Jesus Before the Council & Peter's Denial – Mark 14:53-72

- As they led Jesus to the home of the high priest, Peter followed them from a distance. (14:53-54)

Observations:

1. Jesus is firmly in the custody of those who have been His primary _____ throughout His ministry.
2. Having escaped the arresting mob, Peter managed to follow them to the place of Jesus' trial.

Key Point: The circumstances in which they each found themselves would allow them to bear _____ to Jesus' true identity before particular groups of people.

Mark 13:11—And when they bring you to trial and deliver you over, do not be anxious beforehand what you are to say, but say whatever is given you in that hour, for it is not you who speak, but the Holy Spirit.

- Jesus was presented before the Sanhedrin and was questioned by the high priest. (14:55-65)

The Sanhedrin

The High Priest(s): **Annas**

Caiaphas

Observations:

1. The circumstances of the trial meant that its legality was questionable according to Jewish _____.
2. The primary claim against Him was a false claim regarding what He had said about the _____.
⇒ The charges and Jesus' response to them recalled important Messianic passages from the OT (Isa. 53:7; Psa. 38:12-14).
3. The high priest questioned Jesus directly regarding His identity as _____.
⇒ The question was worded carefully in order to give Jesus the chance to claim that He was "the Son of the Blessed" (Psa. 2:7-8) and thereby to make a claim to the throne of David and an authoritative relationship to God.
4. Jesus' response was both intentionally provocative and unmistakably _____.
I am (Egō eimi) Exod. 3:14b—"Say this to the people of Israel: 'I AM (Egō eimi) has sent me to you.'"
⇒ Jesus identified Himself with the powerful _____ of the Lord which implied His own divine authority and power.
seated at the right hand (ek dexiōn) Psa. 110:1—The Lord says to my Lord: "Sit at my right hand (ek dexiōn) until I make your enemies your footstool."
⇒ Jesus' partial quotation of this enthronement psalm declared His own _____ authority.

coming with the clouds of heaven

Dan. 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.

⇒ Jesus identification of Himself with “Son of Man” of Daniel’s vision declared His confidence that He would be _____ by God who would rightly judge Him and give to Him everlasting dominion (Dan. 7:14).

6. The _____ of the high priest and subsequent judgment of the council demonstrated that they understood what Jesus had just claimed about Himself.

“But in bringing him to death, removing his power, they actually bring him to power at God’s right hand.’ What they considered to be blasphemy is the truth; ironically they are the ones who have the greatest guilt.” —David Garland, *A Theology of Mark’s Gospel*

7. Their mockery of Jesus was extremely _____.

Key Point: Before the most powerful religious leaders in the nation and facing His own impending death, Jesus gave a clear and powerful _____ to His true identity as Messiah.

- As Jesus was being confronted by the high priest regarding His identity, so Peter was confronted about his own outside of where the trial was taking place. (14:66-72)

Observations:

1. The progressive change in Peter’s physical _____ pictured his distancing of himself from Jesus.

2. There is a progression in terms of the confrontations that Peter experiences:

(a) “one of the servant girls” →

(b) “the servant girl” →

(c) “the bystanders” →

“The transitive verb “to invoke a curse” has no direct object...It could be that he calls down a curse upon himself...He denies Jesus under oath and curses himself if he is lying. It is also possible that he pronounces a curse on Jesus...” —Garland

3. The passage concludes with a description of Peter breaking down as a result of his _____.

Key Point: Before an otherwise unimpressive set of individuals and out of fear for his own life, Peter _____ that he even knew who Jesus was.

Seeing Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God

- Mark wants his audience to reflect upon Jesus’ true identity as Messiah who is worthy of worship and praise.
- Mark wants his audience to reflect upon the contrasting responses of both Jesus and Peter.

Concluding Thought: The God Who Can Restore Deniers

1. All _____ is ultimately a denial of God.

Titus 1:16—They profess to know God, but they deny him by their works.

2. Just as Jesus _____ Peter, He can restore us.

“Peter’s denial of Jesus is reprehensible, but his ultimate restoration reveals that such disloyalty, even if tinged with blasphemy, is not irredeemable. The prophetic promise that Jesus will go before them to Galilee after he has risen from the dead implies that the disciple’s failure and their dispersal are only temporary...Jesus’ resurrection dramatically changes things. The failures of the past are canceled, and a new and hopeful era has dawned.” —Garland

John 21:17— He said to him the third time, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?” Peter was grieved because he said to him the third time, “Do you love me?” and he said to him, “Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my sheep.”



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