

Mark 14:53-72 **Trial of Jesus before the High Priest and Council**

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

⁵⁴ But Peter followed Him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest. And he sat with the servants and warmed himself at the fire.

False witnesses fail

⁵⁵ Now the chief priests and all the council sought testimony against Jesus to put Him to death, but found none. ⁵⁶ For many bore false witness against Him, but their testimonies did not agree. ⁵⁷ Then some rose up and bore 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 not even then did their testimony agree.

Jesus Himself provided their desired Evidence – Condemned to Death

⁶⁰ And the high priest stood up in the midst and asked Jesus, saying, "Do You answer nothing? What is it these men testify against You?" ⁶¹ But He kept silent and answered nothing. Again the high priest asked Him, saying to Him, "Are You the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?" ⁶² And Jesus said, "I am. And you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Power, and coming with the clouds of heaven." ⁶³ Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, "What further need do we have of witnesses? ⁶⁴ You have heard the blasphemy! What do you think?" And they all condemned Him to be worthy of death.

Abuse by the Jews at the Council

⁶⁵ Then some began to spit on Him, and to blindfold Him, and to beat Him, and to say to Him, "Prophecy!" And the officers struck Him with the palms of their hands.

Peter's three denials

⁶⁶ Now as Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant girls of the high priest came. ⁶⁷ And when she saw Peter warming himself, she looked at him and said, "You also were with Jesus of Nazareth." ⁶⁸ But he denied it, saying, "I neither know nor understand what you are saying." And he went out on the porch, and a rooster crowed.

⁶⁹ And the servant girl saw him again, and began to say to those who stood by, "This is one of them." ⁷⁰ But he denied it again.

And a little later those who stood by said to Peter again, "Surely you are one of them; for you are a Galilean, and your speech shows it." ⁷¹ Then he began to curse and swear, "I do not know this Man of whom you speak!"

⁷² And a second time the rooster crowed. Then Peter called to mind the word that Jesus had said to him, "Before the rooster crows twice, you will deny Me three times." And when he thought about it, he wept. NKJV

Facts Revealed:

✠ The High Priest, Scribes, and Elders were assembled at night in a special Council for the purpose of condemning Jesus to death when He was brought in. The time of night was an illegal time for a hearing and trial.

✧ As soon as Jesus was arrested and bound, they led Him away from the Garden of Gethsemane to Annas the father-in-law of Caiaphas who was High Priest that year. [John 18:13]

- ✧ Peter followed at a distance and stood at the door outside, while John who was known by the High Priest went on into the court yard of the High Priest, Then he went and spoke to the girl who was the keeper of the door and brought Peter into the courtyard. Then the servant girl who kept the door asked Peter if he was one of Jesus' disciples. Peter said "I am not." [\[John 18:15-18, Matthew 26:58, Mark 14:54, Luke 22:55\]](#)
 - ✧ Annas and Caiaphas alternated as High Priest year by year. [\[Luke 3:2\]](#)
 - ✧ Caiaphas was the one who had said "You know nothing at all, nor do you consider that it is expedient for us that one man should die for the people, and not that the whole nation should perish." [\[John 11:49-50\]](#)
- ✧ Now it was Caiaphas who advised the Jews that it was expedient that one man should die for the people. [\[John 18:14\]](#)
- ✧ Annas the high priest then asked Jesus about His disciples and His doctrine. [\[John 18:19\]](#)
- ✧ Jesus answered him, "I spoke openly to the world. I always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where the Jews always meet, and in secret I have said nothing. Why do you ask Me? Ask those who have heard Me what I said to them. Indeed they know what I said." [\[John 18:20-21\]](#)
- ✧ And when He had said these things, one of the officers who stood by struck Jesus with the palm of his hand, saying, "Do You answer the high priest like that?" [\[John 18:22\]](#)
- ✧ Jesus answered him, "If I have spoken evil, bear witness of the evil; but if well, why do you strike Me?" [\[John 18:23\]](#)
- ✧ Then Annas sent Him bound to Caiaphas the high priest. [\[John 18:24\]](#)
- ✧ And those who had laid hold of Jesus led Him away to Caiaphas the high priest, where the scribes and the elders were assembled. [\[Matthew 26:57, Mark 14:53\]](#)
- ✧ The Chief Priests, Elders, and all the Council sought false testimony against Jesus to put Him to death but found none. Even though many false witnesses came forward and bore false witness against Him but their testimonies did not agree. Then some rose up and bore false witness against Him, saying, "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.'" But not even then did their testimony agree. [\[Matthew 26:59-61, Mark 14:55-59\]](#)
- ✧ And the high priest arose and said to Him, "Do You answer nothing? What is it these men testify against You?" [\[Matthew 26:62, Mark 14:60\]](#)
- ✧ Jesus kept silent and answered nothing. [\[Matthew 26:63, Mark 14:61\]](#)
- ✧ They said to Jesus, "If You are the Christ, tell us." [\[Luke 22:66\]](#)
- ✧ Jesus said, "If I tell you, you will by no means believe. And if I also ask you, you will by no means answer Me or let Me go." [\[Luke 22:67-68\]](#)
- ✧ The high priest answered and said to Him, "I put You under oath by the living God: Tell us if You are the Christ, the Son of God!" [\[Matthew 26:63, Mark 14:61\]](#)
 - ✧ The High Priest knew he did not have sufficient evidence to proclaim the death penalty for what Jesus had done, no matter how desperately he had sought such evidence, so he put Jesus under oath by the Living God.
 - ✧ Jesus knew that it was appointed for Him to die for the sins of the world, and that it was not happening with the testimonies from the false witnesses, so Jesus Himself offered what the High Priest wanted. In doing so, **Jesus gave a very accurate prophecy of the future**, which the High Priest interpreted as blasphemy.
- ✧ Jesus said to him, "It is as you said. Nevertheless, I say to you, hereafter you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Power, and coming on the clouds of heaven." [\[Matthew 26:54, Mark 14:62, Luke 22:69-70\]](#)

✧ Then the high priest tore his clothes, saying, "He has spoken blasphemy! What further need do we have of witnesses? Look, now you have heard His blasphemy! What do you think?" They answered and said, "He is deserving of death." [[Matthew 26:65-66](#), [Mark 14:63-64](#), [Luke 22:71](#)]

Abuse by Jewish Guards

✧ Then they spat in His face and beat Him; and others struck Him with the palms of their hands, saying, "Prophecy to us, Christ! Who is the one who struck You?" [[Matthew 26:67-68](#), [Mark 14:65](#), [Luke 22:63-65](#)]

✧ Now Peter sat outside in the courtyard. And a servant girl came to him, saying, "You also were with Jesus of Galilee." But he denied it before them all, saying, "I do not know what you are saying." And when he had gone out to the gateway, another girl saw him and said to those who were there, "This fellow also was with Jesus of Nazareth." But again he denied with an oath, "I do not know the Man!" And a little later those who stood by came up and said to Peter, "Surely you also are one of them, for your speech betrays you." Then he began to curse and swear, saying, "I do not know the Man!" And immediately a rooster crowed. And Peter remembered the word of Jesus who had said to him, "Before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times." So he went out and wept bitterly. [[Matthew 26:69-75](#), [Mark 14:66-72](#), [Luke 22:54-62](#)]

Now Simon Peter stood and warmed himself. Therefore they said to him, "You are not also one of His disciples, are you?" He denied it and said, "I am not!" One of the servants of the high priest, a relative of him whose ear Peter cut off, said, "Did I not see you in the garden with Him?" Peter then denied again; and immediately a rooster crowed. [[John 18:25-27](#)]