

Jousting Tuesday



- (1) Luke 20.1-8.
- (2) Acts 4.7.
- (3) Psalm 118.20.
- (4) Luke 20.20-26.

On the third day of Passion Week, known as Yom Shlishi (Tuesday), Jesus again taught in the temple and engaged in theological discussions with the chief priests, teachers of the law, elders, and Sadducees. Peter undoubtedly observed as these leaders became increasingly frustrated and angered while Jesus prevailed in front of the large crowds gathered for Passover. The tension among the Jewish leaders intensified, solidifying their determination to kill Jesus.

Jesus declined to comment on the source of his authority when challenged to do so by his adversaries.⁽¹⁾ This probing of Jesus' authority foreshadowed Peter's later experience, when Caiaphas and his cronies questioned the healing ministry of Peter and John, inquiring, "By what power or what name did you do this?"⁽²⁾

Jesus then shared a parable comparing his opponents to disorderly sharecroppers who murdered both the landlord's servants and his son when they came to collect rent. Despite facing resistance from the temple authorities, Jesus described himself as the individual foretold by the psalmist, "The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone."⁽³⁾

As their frustration increased, the Jewish leaders attempted to discredit Jesus by posing a challenging question in front of the crowd. They dispatched individuals who pretended to be genuine seekers of truth to inquire about the issue of paying taxes. However, they did not anticipate the effectiveness of Jesus' response. His answer left them astonished, and, unable to respond further, they chose to remain silent for a time.⁽⁴⁾ Subsequently, a group of Jewish leaders known as the Sadducees attempted to challenge Jesus. The Jewish high court, or Sanhedrin, comprised two branches: the Pharisees and the Sadducees. While the Pharisees affirmed belief in resurrection, the Sadducees rejected this doctrine. To undermine Jesus, the Sadducees posed a question intended to dispute the reality of resurrection. Jesus addressed their inquiry by distinguishing individuals living in the current age from those who, after resurrection, attain eternal life. To support his position, he referenced Moses—whose teachings the Sadducees strongly upheld—and noted that Moses described God .

This account is an excerpt from
Solid Saint: How Peter Became a Rock

