

## Were You There When They Led Him To The Judge?

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. 55) And the chief priests and all the council sought testimony against Jesus to put Him to the death, and found none. 56) For many bore false witness against Him, but their testimonies did not agree. 57) And 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. 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. 65) Then some began to spit on Him, and to blindfold Him, and to beat Him, and to say to Him, "Prophesy!" And the officers struck Him with the palms of their hands.

INTRO: Where was Nicodemus? Joseph of Arimathea? The eleven disciples who professed their willingness to suffer all, even death, rather than fall away? Wasn't there anyone with an ounce of common decency or good sense to speak out against this injustice? Peter and John were right there in the courtyard, warming themselves at the fire. Ah, things would have been different if you or I had been there, right? I'm going to try to convince you that you and I were there - in fact - when they led Him to the Judge.

## I. WE WERE THERE IF WE EVER FAILED TO DEFEND JESUS

## A. For example, against those who twist Jesus' words

1. some people have a preconceived agenda; council **sought** false witnesses
2. 'woke' made-up agendas today, like abortion rights, systemic racism
3. some will use any means to advance an agenda, including fake news, data
4. or flat out make up lies about someone in congress; even in a church
5. I learned a new word, 'truthiness' = an often told lie that sounds true
6. Do we speak out against errorists' misuse of God's word?
7. sheep/goats parable: Lord when did we see Thee...
8. permissiveness or condoning = implied assent
9. every silent assent puts us there with Jesus before the High Priests

## B. Or defend against those abusing the system

1. illegal to hold Sanhedrin trial after sundown

2. a secretary of state uses a personal ISP, and then deletes government info
3. a state reports more votes cast for president than there are registered voters
4. my LCMS dispute resolution panel: no false doctrine; recess and come up with some other charges
5. we seek IRS loopholes: underreport income; barter to avoid reporting
6. I know people buy and install radar detectors in their cars
7. anything goes when it comes to gaming the system
8. every trick we've pulled puts us right there with the high priests

C. How about those abusing Jesus personally?

1. mocking Jesus; who spoke out against this
2. I never stuck up for Ray Cusino, nicknamed 'burry'
3. who sticks up for Jesus when His name is used carelessly or in vain?
4. no, we did not actually spit on Jesus or slap Him
5. but did we stick up for the little kid who was being bullied?
6. or befriend the girl who was being shunned by classmates (Skip)
7. I know that I was there when they led Jesus to the Judge

II. WE WERE THERE, BEING REDEEMED

A. This was God's plan for the redemption of mankind

1. Is.53:4 Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we did esteem Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. 5) But He was wounded or our transgressions, He was bruised or iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him and by His stripes we are healed. 6) All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, every one to his own Way; and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.
2. we were there with our sins laid on Jesus, being redeemed by Him
3. Ps. 22:6 – But I am a worm, and no man; a reproach of men, and despised of the people
4. the Just One, suffering for we who are by nature unjust
5. it's called the Vicarious Atonement- substitution
6. we were there, having our sins redeemed; thus we **are** forgiven; now!

B. Can we go back to the Sanhedrin and High Priest?

1. Jesus was outnumbered, but not overwhelmed; maybe even in charge

2. Rom. 6 says we were there, buried with Christ with baptism unto death
3. Jesus forgave His disciples and later commissioned them
4. here He was suffering on behalf of those who were not defending Him
5. and incidentally showing us how to endure injustices
6. even submitting and testifying under oath, "I am."
7. setting for us the bold precedent, even under threat of death

C. Is there any way that we can defend Jesus; Can we be there?

1. start with a thorough knowledge of His word in order to be equipped
2. request His Holy Spirit for guidance and power
3. individually, or as a congregation, standing firm for what is right
4. as you have opportunity; maybe only one chance
5. remember Skip? reunion 1955-2005; is a hug girl speak for 'forgiven'?
6. merely proclaim His word; live it; don't try to argue it
7. you are there as you testify to the faith that is in you

CONCLUSION: Jesus stood along before Caiaphus the High Priest - no lawyer, no friend beside Him. Jesus, all alone. Can you picture it? God's Son was single handedly suffering for the sins of all. For our sins. Wait, in that sense, yes, we were there, having our sins laid on Jesus. Let's be proud now to boldly stand up and be counted as a friend of Jesus. Amen.