

Jesus Before the High Priest Peter's Denial

Matthew 26:57-75; Mark 14:53-72; Luke 22:54-71; John 18:12-27



The Story

Jesus' enemies took Him to the house of the high priest. They wanted to find a reason to put Jesus to death. The high priest asked Jesus, "Are you Christ, the Son of God?" Jesus answered, "I am."

Now the high priest pretended to be very angry! He tore his robe and shouted, "This is a lie!" He turned to Jesus' enemies and said, "What do you think of this man?" They answered, "He is guilty and must die!" The soldiers who were holding Jesus hit Him, spit on Him, and made fun of Him.

When Jesus had been taken prisoner back in the Garden of Gethsemane, Peter had run away. After a time he began to wonder what was happening to Jesus. He turned back and followed the crowd to the high priest's house. While Jesus was being questioned by the high priest, Peter waited in the yard to see what would happen. There were others waiting with Peter. Three times he was asked, "Aren't you one of Jesus' disciples?" Peter was afraid. Three times he answered, "I am not. I do not even know the man!"

A rooster crowed. Peter looked up and saw Jesus being led past. Jesus looked sadly at him. Then Peter remembered how Jesus had warned him, "Peter, before the rooster crows twice, you will say three times that you do not even know me!" Peter felt so sorry for his sin that he went out and cried. But he also believed that Jesus would forgive him.

Judas, the disciple who had betrayed Jesus, was also very sad about his sin. He hanged himself because he felt his sin was too bad for Jesus to forgive. But we know that the Bible tells us that Jesus died on the cross for all sins, for all people. That is the good news that we want to tell everybody.

Jesus was tried and abused by the Jews and denied by Peter.

Passages - Match three parts of each Bible passage with a different colored line.

- | | | | |
|-----------------|---------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------|
| Matthew 5:37• | •But let your• | •bear false witness• | •haughty spirit before a fall. |
| Exodus 20:16• | •You shall not• | •has laid on Him• | •your 'No' be 'No'. |
| Proverbs 16:18• | •Pride goes before• | •'Yes' be 'Yes'• | •against your neighbor. |
| Isaiah 53:6• | •The LORD• | •destruction, and a• | •the iniquity of us all. |

Jesus chose to lay down His life for us all.

Activity One - Circle ten words from the story.

- SINS
DIE
CROSS
FORGIVE
LIE
CHRIST
DISCIPLE
GETHSEMANE
SORRY
CROW

G	B	G	C	H	J	M	V
E	C	H	R	I	S	T	I
T	D	K	O	L	L	N	D
H	Z	A	S	P	W	I	I
S	I	N	S	B	S	U	E
E	F	Q	G	C	Y	M	K
M	W	O	I	C	R	S	L
A	U	P	Y	R	R	O	S
N	L	D	H	N	S	E	W
E	F	O	R	G	I	V	E

Activity 2 - Discuss these questions.

1. Why did Jesus' enemies want to put Him to death?
2. Could Jesus have gotten away?
3. Why didn't He get Himself free?
4. Peter and Judas both sinned against Jesus. Did Jesus die for both of their sins?
5. Why was one man saved and the other lost in hell?

Hymn - TLH 151 v. 3, 4

Thou hast borne the smiting only
That my wounds might all be whole;
Thou hast suffered, sad and lonely,
Rest to give my weary soul;
Yea, the curse of God enduring,
Blessing unto me securing,
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,
Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

Heartless scoffers did surround Thee,
Treating Thee with shameful scorn
And with piercing thorns they crowned Thee,
All disgrace Thou, Lord, has borne
That as Thine Thou mightest own me
And with heavenly glory crown me.
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,
Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

Prayer

Dear Jesus,

Thank You for suffering so much to pay for my sins. Amen.