

## Mark 14 Vs 53 to 72

### Two Trials/ Two Testimonies

#### A. Jesus' Trial & Testimony Vs 53-65

Jesus, certain of his vindicating resurrection and glorious return, gave a true and faithful non-intimidated and non-retaliatory testimony during his unjust trial in which his death sentence had been predetermined.

#### B. Peter's Trial & Testimony Vs 66 to 72

Peter, by both following Jesus at a distance and his cowardly false testimony before honest witnesses, shamefully denied his identity as Jesus' disciple and his participation in Jesus' mission.

**Summary:** *Peter's unfaithful cowardly testimony in response to others' relatively harmless truthful testimony contrasts starkly to faithful Jesus' unintimidated and true testimony during his formal unjust and rigged lethal trial.*

**Takeaway:** *Jesus, not Peter, is our model when it comes to responses to others' questions or hateful accusations regarding our relationship to Jesus and his disciple making mission.*

**Recognition:** *Without abiding in Jesus, we cannot give faithful and true testimonies about our relationship with Jesus and his mission, even in simple everyday circumstances let alone threatening ones. (John 15:5)*

#### Going Deeper

1. If the apostle Peter crumbled to deny Jesus and his association with him under rather non-threatening circumstances, we are therefore not immune from doing something similar, either in word or deed. What are some possible scenarios in which Jesus' disciples in our city may presently be denying their relationship to Jesus and his mission?

2. Despite the servant girl's true testimony being relatively harmless, it would appear that fear for his own life motivated Peter's denials of Jesus. What other kind of fears or other motivators may cause us in present day Hamilton to directly or indirectly be tripped up into denying our identity as Jesus' disciples and/or our participation in his mission?
3. Peter's falling asleep three times in Gethsemane when he should have been praying for the day to come foreshadowed his initial flight, and his consequent following Jesus at a distance to a place where he denied Jesus three times. In addition to failing to pray, what may be some other precursors for distancing ourselves from Jesus to where we are in danger of denying our relationship with Jesus and his mission?
4. Although Jesus answered a direct question in regard to his identity, Jesus remained silent when he was being baited into responding to the false testimonies levelled against him. In what situations would believers be wise to remain silent to avoid compromising either their testimony as Jesus' disciple or participation in his mission?
5. John 15:5 "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing." Without abiding in Jesus, we will probably compromise our loyalty to Jesus. Biblical Obedience, and the Empowered Prayer, Participatory Worship, Intentional Evangelism, Committed Fellowship and Sacrificial Service that flow out of it are six essentials that keep us abiding in him. Neglect participation in any of these essentials and you will find yourself lagging behind Jesus where you will eventually deny him in one way or another. Prayerfully consider your participation in these essentials. Can you honestly say you are presently engaged and growing in your participation in each of these six essentials or is their one or two in which you are lagging behind in or perhaps now digressing in? If the Spirit convinces you of lagging behind Jesus in any of these areas, in addition to repenting and seeking his forgiveness, what is the most important next step for you to take to catch up to Jesus? What will you do to follow through on this step? If you are not sure what those steps could possibly be, speak to someone who you see as clearly mature in this area. If you can't think of anyone you can always speak to pastor Matt to make that connection for you.