

Day 1

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today’s study.

Before the Sanhedrin

⁵³ They took Jesus to the high priest, and all the chief priests, elders, and teachers of the law came together. ⁵⁴ Peter followed him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest. There he sat with the guards and warmed himself at the fire.

Q1. “Peter followed Him at a distance, right into the courtyard”. Did Peter exhibit courage? (Vs.54)

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Q2. Do you think anyone was allowed into the courtyard or did Peter know someone?

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John 18:15-16 Simon Peter and another disciple were following Jesus. Because this disciple was known to the high priest, he went with Jesus into the high priest's courtyard, 16 but Peter had to wait outside at the door. The other disciple, who was known to the high priest, came back, spoke to the girl on duty there, and brought Peter in.

⁵⁵ The chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin were looking for evidence against Jesus so that they could put him to death, but they did not find any. ⁵⁶ Many testified falsely against him, but their statements did not agree.

Q3. Did these ‘men of God’, the Chief Priests and the remainder of the members of the Sanhedrin, know Scripture?

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Q4. If you asked the members of the Sanhedrin, whether they followed God’s Law, how do you think they would have replied?

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Q5. Did the Sanhedrin have two or more witnesses who provided similar testimony?

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Exodus 20:16 “You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.” (or Deuteronomy 5:20)

Deuteronomy 17:6 On the testimony of two or three witnesses a man shall be put to death, but no one shall be put to death on the testimony of only one witness.

⁵⁷ Then some stood up and gave this false testimony against him: ⁵⁸ "We heard him say, 'I will destroy this man-made temple and in three days will build another, not made by man.'" ⁵⁹ Yet even then their testimony did not agree.

John 2:18-19 Then the Jews demanded of him, "What miraculous sign can you show us to prove your authority to do all this?" ¹⁹ Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days."

Q6. Had Jesus actually said what they accused Him of saying?

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Deuteronomy 19:15 One witness is not enough to convict a man accused of any crime or offense he may have committed. A matter must be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.

Day 2

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⁶⁰ Then the high priest stood up before them and asked Jesus, "Are you not going to answer? What is this testimony that these men are bringing against you?" ^{61a} But Jesus remained silent and gave no answer.

Q7. What was the main responsibility of the Chief Priest in this situation?

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Q8. Did the Chief Priest ensure that the rights of the accused were honored?

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Q9. “Jesus remained silent.” Why did Jesus remain silent?

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Q10. Do you think that the Sanhedrin was interested in Jesus’ defense against the “charges”?

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^{61b} Again the high priest asked him, "Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed One?"

⁶² "I am," said Jesus. "And you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven."

Q11. Jesus broke His silence. Why do you think that Jesus chose to answer this question?

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Matthew 12:34-37 [Jesus was teaching in the temple. In response to a Pharisaical question, Jesus rebuked the religious leaders and said.] "...You brood of vipers, how can you who are evil say anything good? For out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks. ³⁵ The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in him, and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in him ³⁶ But I tell you that men will have to give account on the day of judgment for every careless word they have spoken. ³⁷ For by your words you will be condemned."

Day 3

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⁶³ The high priest tore his clothes. "Why do we need any more witnesses?" he asked. ⁶⁴ "You have heard the blasphemy. What do you think?"

Q12. Was it right for the High Priest to tear his clothes? What did the tearing of clothes signify?

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Leviticus 21:10 " The high priest, the one among his brothers who has had the anointing oil poured on his head and who has been ordained to wear the priestly garments, must not let his hair become unkempt or tear his clothes.

 Rending (or tearing) of clothes: The term is also used to describe a Hebrew custom, which indicated deep sorrow. Upon the death of a relative or important personage, or when there was a great calamity, it was customary for the Hebrews to tear their garments... Rending of clothes was also an expression of indignation. (The International Standard Bible Encyclopedia)

Q13. What is “blasphemy”?

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Leviticus 24:11-16 The son of the Israelite woman blasphemed the Name with a curse; so they brought him to Moses... ¹² They put him in custody until the will of the LORD should be made clear to them.

¹³ Then the LORD said to Moses: ¹⁴ "Take the blasphemer outside the camp. All those who heard him are to lay their hands on his head, and the entire assembly is to stone him. ¹⁵ Say to the Israelites: 'If anyone curses his God, he will be held responsible; ¹⁶ anyone who blasphemes the name of the LORD must be put to death. The entire assembly must stone him. Whether an alien or native-born, when he blasphemes the Name, he must be put to death.

Q14. Do you think the Sanhedrin had previously determined the punishment they wanted to inflict upon Jesus?

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Q15. What “crime” did Jesus commit that warranted crucifixion?

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Q16. The High Priest asked, "Why do we need any more witnesses?" Did they have enough witnesses? Why or why not?

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⁶⁵ They all condemned him as worthy of death. Then some began to spit at him; they blindfolded him, struck him with their fists, and said, "Prophecy!" And the guards took him and beat him.

Day 4

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today’s study.

Peter Disowns Jesus

⁶⁶ While Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant girls of the high priest came by. ^{67a} When she saw Peter warming himself, she looked closely at him.

Q17. We know that Peter was a fisherman. How do you picture him? How does he look? Wind-blown? Sun-browned? Strong? Weak? Quiet? Timid? Brash? Impulsive? Courageous? Would he consider himself a teacher or a student?

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Q18. How would you describe a “servant girl”? Debonair? Rough? Work-worn? Courageous? Haughty? Would “powerful” people typically listen to a “servant girl”? What might happen to a servant who took the initiative and spoke to an “aristocrat” before they gave her permission to speak?

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^{67b} “You also were with that Nazarene, Jesus,” she said.

⁶⁸ But he denied it. “I don’t know or understand what you’re talking about,” he said, and went out into the entryway.

Q19. Why did Peter deny knowing Jesus?

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Q20. Verse-67 states that Peter was “warming himself”. Why did he leave the fire?

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Day 5

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⁶⁹ When the servant girl saw him there, she said again to those standing around, “This fellow is one of them.” ^{70a} Again he denied it.

Q21. Why was the “servant girl” so insistent?

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^{70b} After a little while, those standing near said to Peter, “Surely you are one of them, for you are a Galilean.”

Q22. How do you think the others standing near Peter guessed that he was from Galilee?

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Matthew 26:73 After a little while, those standing there went up to Peter and said, "Surely you are one of them, for your accent gives you away."

Q23. While Jesus was so fervently praying in the Garden of Gethsemane, he admonished his disciples to pray. Do you think that Peter ever prayed during this time?

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Q24. If he had prayed, do you think it would have helped? Why or why not?

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Q25. Obviously, the Peter was concerned about the tenacity of the "servant girl". What happens when we pray for those who are antagonistic toward us or our values?

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 Note: Peter had heard the Lord's teaching as reported in Luke 6:27-28, but did not appear to put it to use:

 **Luke 6:27-28** "But I tell you who hear me: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸ bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you."

⁷¹ He began to call down curses on himself, and he swore to them, "I don't know this man you're talking about."

Q26. Why was it bad that Peter cursed and "swore to them, 'I don't know this man you're talking about.'"?

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Q27. Do you think that Peter thought much about his Lord during this time in the courtyard?

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Q28. As it relates to the Lord Jesus at this time what did Peter, the other disciples, and the members of the Sanhedrin have in common?

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Day 6

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⁷² Immediately the rooster crowed the second time. Then Peter remembered the word Jesus had spoken to him: “Before the rooster crows twice you will disown me three times.” And he broke down and wept. [Matthew 26:75 states “wept bitterly”.]

Matthew 26:75 Immediately a rooster crowed. Then Peter remembered the word Jesus had spoken: "Before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times." And he went outside and wept bitterly.

Q29. Is remorse the same as repentance?

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Q30. At this moment in the courtyard, do you think that Peter was filled with remorse? Or was it repentance? Or both?

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Q31. When we sin, are we to be remorseful or repentant? Or both? Why does it matter?

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2 Corinthians 7:10 Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death.

Q32. Can you think of another who was filled with remorse, but did not repent? (See Matt 27:3)

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Matthew 27:3-5 When Judas, who had betrayed him, saw that Jesus was condemned, he was seized with remorse and returned the thirty silver coins to the chief priests and the elders. 4 "I have sinned," he said, "for I have betrayed innocent blood." "What is that to us?" they replied. "That's your responsibility." 5 So Judas threw the money into the temple and left. Then he went away and hanged himself.

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