

Matthew: Jesus, The King of Kings

Jesus Kept Silent

Matthew 26:57-27:10

Today

- A corrupt court
- A silent Savior
- A tale of two sorrows

[Pray]

:57–58

Caiphas

- The official high priest
- Ex-high priest Annas first (John tells us) Father-in-law of C
- Political meddling
- In their homes - secret trials away from the public eye
- Trial before the trial (Luke)

Spiritual confusion, corruption, “deep state”

- All signs of a nation apart from God

Yet this is precisely when God showed up

Compare Jewish law:

- No criminal cases during Passover
- Only acquittal on day of trial, Guilty verdicts must wait 1 day for emotions (similar to our sentencing)
- All evidence guaranteed by 2 witnesses who were examined separately with no contact
- False witnesses punishable by death
- Trial supposed to begin with evidence of innocence

Proverbs 6:16-19 These six things the LORD hates, Yes, seven are an abomination to Him: A proud look, A lying tongue, Hands that shed innocent blood, A heart that devises wicked plans, Feet that are swift in running to evil, A false witness who speaks lies, And one who sows discord among brethren.

:59–61

Sought false testimony

Seek in order to find, crave

The express purpose of sentencing him to death

Looking for anything to get them the outcome they desired

- **Manipulating** the legal system to get him **murdered**
- Twisting things to keep the guilt off their hands (in their minds)
- **The very twisting reveals the guilt**

Many false witnesses came forward - but there was nothing to say about Jesus

Pretty easy to dig up dirt on most of us, let alone a major political figure

Exodus 20:16 - "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor."

**They didn't care about the commandments - or the people who would sin for them
Whatever it took to get their way, keep their power**

They were above the law - ultimate hypocrites

Those above the law, who twist the law, hate those who fulfill the law

Absolute power corrupts absolutely

- The corrupt in power are easy to spot
- Care more about one who breaks the law than the victim

Witness of what Jesus said about the temple

- During Passover
- Flipped tables
- Prophesied of destroying the temple and raising it back up

- 1) **Was referring to himself, not the building**
- 2) **Said it would be raised back up**

What terrorist threat includes a plan to rebuild it?

Another clue was their fixation on the physical

- Temple building, earthly kingdom, earthly power
- No judge of them but themselves - not the law, not the people, and not God

:62-64

Mad Jesus won't speak!

Jesus said nothing and there was nothing to say against Jesus

They want him to speak to condemn himself. He's not falling for their trap.

Don't worry about your reputation, worry about your character

(Your reputation will sort itself out based on your character)

Which would you rather?

- Defend yourself - even if you had a huge PR firm
- God defend you

The truth cannot stay hidden.

The irony of their demanding he tell them if he was the messiah

It was obvious he was

Jesus goes one step farther

Not just a political savior on an earthly throne

A Spiritual Savior with the right to the heavenly throne

The lone Righteous and Just Judge - unlike their corrupt court

He'll be back

They wanted him dead and he was telling them they wouldn't succeed in the long run

:65–68

Tearing clothes - sign of anguish

Remember this when God tears the temple veil

Worried about his so-called blasphemy

Yet look how they speak to God himself

The hind parts to Moses: Jesus, the face of God

He could have told them who struck him and anything about them

But He kept silent

Isaiah 53:7 - He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, And as a sheep before its shearers is silent, So He opened not His mouth.

There's power in silence

We shout and yell and make a fuss to prove our point

But oftentimes **silence is louder**

Jesus' arrest and beatings came not at the hand of Gentile unbelievers But from the top down of the religious leaders

They claimed to have the highest authority but had none
The One who didn't force his authority had all the power

*We cannot take Godly authority unto ourselves - why? We are not God!
It is given. It is a gift. It is not earned. It is not learned.*

Romans 12:3 - For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.

They were gods in their own minds - (god/judge) - they loved self-righteousness
God's righteousness and God himself they hated

Beware of any "ministry" exalting self: self help, self love, forgiving of self - can't be done!
We are helpless without Jesus' blood and righteousness

The more trust in religion a person has the less they love God

Jesus condemnation at the day of their trial - judgment day:
You knew the law but you didn't know me

When God is was silent with Israel

- **400 years**, no scripture, no prophets
- **Prophecy of John the Baptist** before the Messiah (end of Malachi)
- **Time to prepare**, study to recognize the Messiah
- Instead didn't - came up with their own ideas

When God is silent with us:

- **trust the last thing He told us**
(kids asking over an over, or new employee asking overly and needing to just do)
- **We need correction**
We've wandered. We've grown hard.
We're judging him wrong and ourselves correct

A curse (result) of disobedience

Deuteronomy 28:23 - "And your heavens which are over your head shall be bronze, and the earth which is under you shall be iron.

1 Peter 3:7c [husbands]...that your prayers may not be hindered.

Where scripture is silent, so must we

:69–70

Peter followed at a distance

- Sin separates
- Peter didn't want to **forsake** Jesus in proximity, But he would **deny** him
- Might have been seeking another opportunity to prove himself

John knew someone at Caiaphas' house and was able to get Peter in

Peter cut off the servant's ear - probably tense trying to stay undercover

He wasn't a usual there at this time of night

- Something about his look, his speech, his demeanor - maybe even recognizable
- Perhaps he thought he could stay hidden in the dark

First denial: act clueless

"I don't know what you're talking about"

Big Peter, afraid of a little girl

Did the others know or would they even care?

the honesty of a child put him in a pickle

Following at a distance | Warming by the world's fires

Trying to stay an undercover Christian in a hostile world

Was Peter actually in any danger there? They really only wanted Jesus dead.

John 11:47-53 - Then the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered a council and said, "What shall we do? For this Man works many signs. "If we let Him alone like this, everyone will believe in Him, and the Romans will come and take away both our place and nation." **And one of them, Caiaphas, being high priest that year, said to them, "You know nothing at all, "nor do you consider that it is expedient for us that one man should die for the people, and not that the whole nation should perish." Now this he did not say on his own authority; but being high priest that year he prophesied that Jesus would die for the nation,** and not for that nation only, but also that He would gather together in one the children of God who were scattered abroad. Then, from that day on, they plotted to put Him to death.

:71–72

Peter leaves, goes somewhere else another servant girl exposes him

Second denial: an oath (steps it up)

Yet the folks around might not have heard the first recognition and denial

Matthew 5:34, 37 - "But I say to you, do not swear at all: neither by heaven, for it is God's throne; ... "But let your 'Yes' be 'Yes,' and your 'No,' 'No.' For whatever is more than these is from the evil one.

Two witnesses against Peter

I do not know the Man

Peter separating himself from the human of Jesus meanwhile inside they're finding out the deity

Are we seen with Jesus? Can people tell we're a Christian?

Is it obvious we don't belong (or are uncomfortable) in certain places with certain people? We should be! Or do we blend right in?

:73–75

Now those who were around

They'd begun to talk about it maybe, and decide to approach him

What was their motive? Were they accusatory?

Maybe they were curious? C'mon man, quit lying. Why are you lying?

His accent gave him away - *you're not from these parts*

C'mon Peter, it's obvious you're with him

Third denial: Sinful speech

Maybe to try and prove he's not godly, show them he's just like them, **not a disciple in nature**

Does our speech betray us?

Ephesians 4:29 - Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers.

Immediately a rooster crowed - midnight, 1am, dawn? Roman guard switch "rooster crow" 3am?

I'm inclined that God used nature and not the Romans here

God uses animals again to wake Peter up to the truth of the gospel for the gentiles in Acts

Peter had forgotten - not believed Jesus was right

He was in the flesh -and when the failure happened - he then remembered the Word of the Lord

Thankfully we have the Holy Spirit who convicts and reminds us in the trial

Had been moving toward the door, now he went out and wept bitterly

The failure was a big deal - why?

- **For his relationship with the Lord**
Peter loved Jesus, his close friend, his savior, his teacher
- **Revealed his true nature to himself -**
he had said he wouldn't fail - But he did - and at the worst time

27:1-2

Still plotting in the morning - The official meeting

- trying to figure out how to get it done, and quickly,
- and stay on the right side of the romans and Jews
- Jews could live out their laws, but Rome was the law of the land - handled criminals

"We didn't kill him, the romans did"

Who killed Jesus? We all did. Our sin did. The Father did.

This was God's doing the entire time

:3-5

Judas remorseful - the religious leaders could care less about his soul

Godly sorrow vs. worldly sorrow

2 Corinthians 7:10 - For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death.

How to tell the difference? Where does the sorrow lead you? Jesus? Yourself?

Like when most sin is done, the illusion wears off and you see it for what it is

Selfishness, sin and Satan Used, abused and discarded Judas

Judas had his own morality

Threw the money down - it was now disgusting to him as the betrayal was

The little money that had such worth for his purpose (revenge?) was now less than worthless

Went and hung himself - relatively straightforward - but it ended up gory (Acts 1:18-19)

No business to go back to. Fed up with the religious system. Didn't gain from the ministry.

Suicide was the way out Judas chose - he repented of the action, but not in relationship

Worldly sorrow - sorrow for yourself. Sorrow you got caught. Sorrow it didn't work.

**The lie about suicide - demonic influence - that there's nothing after -
and it's the way out of pain, anguish, trouble, nothing to go back to "life is over"**

*A believer, should have a harder time of committing suicide, but it's not impossible
They will go to heaven*

Being Powerless - motivation for people to commit suicide, last act of "free will" choice, power
No other choice they want to do

*Japan has high suicide rates
Businessmen and financial ruin
A love lost "can't live without you"*

**It's selfish - you love yourself, you're upset it didn't go your way
You might say you hate yourself - but if that was true, you'd be happy it wasn't working
out**

It is not the answer

- The other side is in fact worse
- you hurt all those who love you more

The other lie: you're alone. Nobody's felt this. Experienced this. Done something so bad. Nobody loves you.

**Both Peter and Judas turned away from Jesus.
But their sorrow over it was completely different.**

:6-10

What to do with dirty money? invest in dirty real estate

- Potters field - worthless place (bought cheaply)
- Akel Dama - field of blood
- Used henceforth as a place to bury strangers, criminals

Yet even this, was prophesied

God's ultimate plan

He knew what they would do hundreds of years before they were even born

Their selfish plans did not take God by surprise

Like the first Passover, this passover was also full of death

Both Judas and Jesus

We two have two options:

Die in our sins, or let Jesus die for us

If you've denied him, turn back to him

If you think there's only one way out, and no way back

If you're without hope, wanting to die - he's with you - you can have a new life

You don't have to go back to the old life that makes you want to die -

you can die in him and be born again and find a new life

He offers you a way out, a way back and a way through

He won't be silent on your behalf - an advocate with the father

1 John 2:1b-2 ...if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.

What Jesus went through wasn't because of Judas' betrayal

Or because of Peter's denial

It was to do God's will

If He seems silent - it's time to consider what He's already said. It's written down.

If you find yourself remorseful, sorrowing unto death. Remember, he still calls you.

If you find yourself weeping, having followed at a distance, warming yourself in the wrong fires - remember, **he won't call you out. He'll take you back.**

But let Godly sorrow have its way in you - repentance unto life. Not remorse unto death.