Sermon Notes

**“Before the Sanhedrin”**

**Mark 14:53–65**

**53 They took Jesus to the high priest, and all the chief priests, the elders and the 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. 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. 57 Then some stood up and gave this false testimony against him: 58 “We heard him say, ‘I will destroy this temple made with human hands and in three days will build another, not made with hands.’ ” 59 Yet even then their testimony did not agree. 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?” 61 But Jesus remained silent and gave no answer. Again the high priest asked him, “Are you the Messiah, 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.” 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?” They all condemned him as worthy of death. 65 Then some began to spit at him; they blindfolded him, struck him with their fists, and said, “Prophesy!” And the guards took him and beat him.**

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53 They took Jesus to the high priest, and all the chief priests, the elders and the teachers of the law came together.**

*Why?*

1. Jesus seems to be claiming authority that is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
2. Jesus seems to be claiming authority \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

v. 54 Following Jesus at a distance is often marked by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and prioritizing \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

v. 59 Be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in your speech and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**Again the high priest asked him, “Are you the Messiah, 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.”**

 “I Am” + Psalm 110 + Daniel 7:13-14 = \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Questions for discussion:

1. Think of a single word that captures or represents an insight you recall from the sermon. Share the word with us and why you selected it.

2. What fresh, I-never-thought-of-that-before insight did you learn from the sermon?

3. Following Jesus at a distance is often marked by blending in with the crowd and prioritizing personal comfort. Where is this true for you? What have you done to fight the urge to prioritize comfort as a follower of Jesus?

4. False witnesses come forward to accuse Jesus. What instructions were given to the first Christians by the apostle Paul as it relates to truth-telling and falsehood? (see Colossians 3:9 and Ephesians 4:25)

5. Why do you think Jesus remained silent while so many false accusations were mounted against him? What lessons can we learn from his example?

6. Read Colossians 3:1-3. How does Paul instruct the early church to live out their new identity and life in Christ? What practical ways can Christians do this?