

GOOD NEWS FROM THE KING
A Study of the Gospel According to Mark
Mark 14:43–15:15

Holy Bible, New International Version ©2011

*"Again the high priest asked him, 'Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?'
 'I am,' said Jesus." Mark 14:61b–62a*

Pray for the Holy Spirit to open your heart to his word.

Read through this week's passage and jot down any thoughts and questions you may have.

Read Mark 14:43–52.

1. What is it that makes Judas' betrayal so hurtful? Consider how Judas is described in 14:20, 43, and the signal that was used by him to identify Jesus to the soldiers. (vv. 44–45; Psalm 41:9)

2. Jesus rebukes the armed crowd of men who had come to arrest him, and yet acknowledges that Scripture must be fulfilled. Sadly, which prediction was fulfilled most glaringly? (vv. 50–52; Mark 14:27)

Read Mark 14:53–65.

3. What was the purpose for the trial before the Sanhedrin? (v. 55a)

What thwarted their plans? (vv. 55b–59; Deuteronomy 17:6)

The Sanhedrin.

"The high court of the Jews. In NT times it was made up of three kinds of members: chief priests, elders, and teachers of the law. Its total membership numbered 71, including the high priest, who was presiding officer. Under Roman jurisdiction the Sanhedrin was given a great deal of authority, but it could not impose capital punishment...."¹

4. Caiaphas, the high priest questions Jesus, "Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?" (v. 61b).
 - a. What does Jesus answer? (v. 62)

- b. Why do those listening interpret his statement as blasphemous (v.64)? (Exodus 3:14; Psalm 110:1; Daniel 7:13–14)

- c. Why isn't it blasphemous? (Mark 1:1; Hebrews 1:3)

Read Mark 14:66–72.

- 5. Peter follows Jesus into the courtyard of the High Priest.
 - a. How does Peter respond to accusations that he was with Jesus? (v. 68, 70–71)


 - b. How does this compare to his previous confidence? (Mark 8:29; 14:29–31)

 - c. What is Peter's reaction when he hears the rooster crow? (v. 72)

- 6. Fear and doubt can cause even the strongest person to abandon everything they once trusted. Jesus faced the ultimate fear—God's wrath—and stood firm. Write a prayer of thanksgiving to Jesus for enduring suffering and death on your behalf, securing forgiveness for your failures and giving you peace and eternal life with God.

“Jesus retains his integrity at the cost of his life. Peter loses his integrity to save his skin. Mark has contrasted them vividly. ... Within this framework, the detailed description of Peter's failure highlights the solitariness of Jesus. Betrayed by one associate, forsaken by ten more, and now publicly and bitterly renounced by his closest friend; he stands alone, ... what Jesus has to do now, he has to do all by himself. No one else can give their life as a ransom for many. Nobody else can bring Israel's story of failure and redemption to its climax.”²

Read Mark 15:1-15.

7. All the Jewish leaders “reached a decision” (v. 1) and “handed [Jesus] over to Pilate” (v. 1).
 - a. How does Pilate respond to Jesus? (vv. 2–5)
 - b. How does Pilate respond to the crowd? (vv. 9–14)
 - c. Why does Pilate let Barabbas go free? (v. 15)
8. How is the crowd in Mark 11:8–10 different from the crowd in 15:13–14?
9. Even in the darkness of the trial before Pilate, the message of the gospel shines through in the prisoner exchange of Jesus for Barabbas. Considering who is guilty but set free, and who is innocent but condemned, how is this a picture of our redemption? (Romans 5:8; 1 Peter 3:18; 1 John 4:10; * Luke 23:40–41)