

The King's Witness
Let's Go
Mark 14:53-72
3-27-22

Isaiah 53:3 – “He was...rejected by mankind, a man of suffering...familiar with pain...people hide their faces from Him...He was despised...we held him in low esteem.”

Luke 4:18-19 – “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me...he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor...to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.”

I. A Faithful Witness.

Mark 14:55-64 – “Now the chief priests and the whole council were seeking testimony against Jesus to put him to death, but they found none. For many bore false witness against him, but their testimony did not agree...And the high priest stood up in the midst and asked Jesus, ‘Have you no answer to make? What is it that these men testify against you?’ But he remained silent and made no answer. Again the high priest asked him, ‘Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?’ And Jesus said, ‘I am, and you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power, and coming with the clouds of heaven.’ ‘...You have heard his blasphemy. What is your decision?’ And they all condemned him as deserving death.”

2 Corinthians 4:4 – “Satan, who is the god of this world, has blinded the minds of those who don't believe. They are unable to see the glorious light of the Good News...”

Revelation 1:5 – “...Jesus Christ is the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood.”

II. A Damaged Witness.

Mark 14:67-72 – “And as Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant girls of the high priest came, and seeing Peter warming himself, she looked at him and said, ‘You also were with the Nazarene, Jesus.’ But he denied it, saying, ‘I neither know nor understand what you mean.’ And he went out into the gateway and the rooster crowed. And the servant girl saw him and began again to say to the bystanders, ‘This man is one of them.’ But again he denied it. And after a little while the bystanders again said to Peter, ‘Certainly you are one of them, for you are a Galilean.’ But he began to invoke a curse on himself and to swear, ‘I do not know this man of whom you speak.’ And immediately the rooster crowed a second time. And Peter remembered how Jesus had said to him, ‘Before the rooster crows twice, you will deny me three times.’ And he broke down and wept.”

Psalms 119:71 – “O God, it is good for me that You have humbled me.”

III. A Restored Witness.

A Restored Witness will:

1. Admit our sins and ask for forgiveness.

Ephesians 4:32 – “Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.”

James 5:16 – “...confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.”

2. Allow people to have their say.

Genesis 50:20 – “You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.”

3. Ask for more.

Psalms 139:23-24 – “Search me, God...See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.”

4. Remain in Christ, His word, and His people.

John 15:7-8 – “If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.”

John 15:7 (The Message) – “If you make yourselves at home with me and my words are at home in you, you can be sure that whatever you ask will be listened to and acted upon.”

Luke 22:32 – “Jesus said, ‘But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith will not fail. So, when you recover, strengthen the other disciples.’”

Growing Deeper This Week

1. Why do people get upset when they perceive that something is not fair?
2. What was the Sanhedrin looking for in the witnesses who were called? In what situations do we sometimes look for evidence to support preconceived conclusions? How do we avoid this error?
3. What was the significance of Jesus using the phrases “I am” (God’s OT name) and “Son of Man” (His favorite description of Himself on earth) in His answer?
4. Have you ever trusted a friend to defend you and then been disappointed? Were you able to forgive that person and restore the friendship?
5. Was there a time in your past where you denied knowing Jesus? What happened then and afterwards?
6. Do you feel shame and remorse over situations where you could have stood up for Jesus? Ask forgiveness from God, go back and correct your witness to that person where possible, and resolve, with God’s strength, to be courageous in the future.
7. How were the sins of Judas and Peter similar? How were their responses to guilt different?
8. How did Peter’s experiences on that night prepare him for his future ministry?
9. Review the four ways to have a restored witness. Discuss and pray through them. Use John 15:7-8 as a prayer to remember God’s plan for us.