
How would you answer someone who says the Gospel Passion accounts are anti-Jew?

14:53-59 (NIV)

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

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. Many testified falsely against him, but their statements did not agree.

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

Whom was Jesus brought before after his arrest?

What do you think of Peter's action?

How would you describe the "trial" Jesus was put on?

Read John 2:13-22 and Matthew 27:62-63.

What made their testimony about Jesus' destroying the temple a *false* testimony?

14:60-65

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?" But Jesus remained silent and gave no answer.

Again the high priest asked him, "Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed One?"

“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.”

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

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, “Prophesy!” And the guards took him and beat him.

Why do you think Jesus remained silent?

What is the one question which Jesus answered?

How did he answer the question?

What judgment did the high priest render?

Was Jesus *worthy of death*?

What does the treatment of Jesus tell you about the men who did it?

14:66-72

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

“You also were with that Nazarene, Jesus,” she said.

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

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

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

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

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.

Describe the hard fall of a boastful disciple.

What was especially damning about Peter’s behavior?

What do you think Peter was weeping about?

What did Jesus suffer in today’s lesson?

*Men mock and taunt and jeer you, they smite your countenance,
Though mighty worlds shall fear you and flee before your glance.
How pale you are with anguish, with sore abuse and scorn!
Your eyes with pain now languish that once were bright as morn! (CW 105)*

What thoughts in this hymn stanza connect with today’s lesson?