

Connection Group Discussion Questions

For the week of March 19, 2017

Mark 14:53-55, 61-72

These questions are to be used as a spring board for discussion.

Answers may or may not be found in the sermons.

New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

⁵³ They took Jesus to the high priest; and all the chief priests, the elders, and the scribes were assembled. ⁵⁴ Peter had followed him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest; and he was sitting with the guards, warming himself at the fire. ⁵⁵ Now the chief priests and the whole council were looking for testimony against Jesus to put him to death; but they found none.

⁶¹ But he was silent and did not answer. Again the high priest asked him, "Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?" ⁶² Jesus said, "I am; and 'you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of the Power,' and 'coming with the clouds of heaven.'" ⁶³ Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, "Why do we still need witnesses? ⁶⁴ You have heard his blasphemy! What is your decision?" All of them condemned him as deserving death. ⁶⁵ Some began to spit on him, to blindfold him, and to strike him, saying to him, "Prophecy!" The guards also took him over and beat him.

⁶⁶ While Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant-girls of the high priest came by. ⁶⁷ When she saw Peter warming himself, she stared at him and said, "You also were with Jesus, the man from Nazareth." ⁶⁸ But he denied it, saying, "I do not know or understand what you are talking about." And he went out into the forecourt. Then the cock crowed. ⁶⁹ And the servant-girl, on seeing him, began again to say to the bystanders, "This man is one of them." ⁷⁰ But again he denied it. Then after a little while the bystanders again said to Peter, "Certainly you are one of them; for you are a Galilean." ⁷¹ But he began to curse, and he swore an oath, "I do not know this man you are talking about." ⁷² At that moment the cock crowed for the second time. Then Peter remembered that Jesus had said to him, "Before the cock crows twice, you will deny me three times." And he broke down and wept.

Common English Bible (CEB)

⁵³ They led Jesus away to the high priest, and all the chief priests, elders, and legal experts gathered. ⁵⁴ Peter followed him from a distance, right into the high priest's courtyard. He was sitting with the guards, warming himself by the fire. ⁵⁵ The chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin were looking for testimony against Jesus in order to put him to death, but they couldn't find any.

⁶¹ But Jesus was silent and didn't answer. Again, the high priest asked, "Are you the Christ, the Son of the blessed one?" ⁶² Jesus said, "I am. And you will see the Human One sitting on the right side of the Almighty and coming on the heavenly clouds." ⁶³ Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, "Why do we need any more witnesses? ⁶⁴ You've heard his insult against God. What do you think?" They all condemned him. "He deserves to die!" ⁶⁵ Some began to spit on him. Some covered his face and hit him, saying, "Prophecy!" Then the guards took him and beat him.

⁶⁶ Meanwhile, Peter was below in the courtyard. A woman, one of the high priest's servants, approached ⁶⁷ and saw Peter warming himself by the fire. She stared at him and said, "You were also with the Nazarene, Jesus." ⁶⁸ But he denied it, saying, "I don't know what you're talking about. I don't understand what you're saying." And he went outside into the outer courtyard. A rooster crowed. ⁶⁹ The female servant saw him and began a second time to say to those standing around, "This man is one of them." ⁷⁰ But he denied it again. A short time later, those standing around again said to Peter, "You must be one of them, because you are also a Galilean." ⁷¹ But he cursed and swore, "I don't know this man you're talking about." ⁷² At that very moment, a rooster crowed a second time. Peter remembered what Jesus told him, "Before a rooster crows twice, you will deny me three times." And he broke down, sobbing.

Connection Questions:

1. Why did the Sanhedrin have Jesus arrested and tried at night time?

2. Why were they afraid to convict him? What could possibly happen if they didn't convict him?

3. Why was Jesus constantly annoyed by the Sanhedrin all throughout the gospels?

4. What role does fear play in how the Sanhedrin dealt with Jesus?

5. How did issues like success, prestige, power, and money hamper the Sanhedrin in their quest to know and relate to God better?

6. How can these same issues get in the way in our quest to grow in our faith?

7. How can our fears be acknowledged and addressed in ways that are healthy?

8. Jesus knew who he was and was convicted for his claim. Why is knowing and trusting God so important in our spiritual development?

9. Peter's strong faith and his denials of Jesus are two realities in his life. What can we learn from Peter's faith story that could possibly help us in our own journey?

10. When Peter sees Jesus at the end of the trial story, he cries. How is learning to be vulnerable important in our faith development?