

The Gospel of Mark

Lesson 36: Mark 14:66-15:15

Peter denies Jesus (14:66-72)

- These events transpire concurrent to Jesus' time before the Sanhedrin
- Peter is concerned enough about Jesus to linger nearby
- His previous boldness melts away when questioned by a slave girl
 - Scholars generally agree that she is contemptuous of Jesus
- Peter's response resembles a legal rabbinical denial
- The cursing of his third denial is not bad language but proclaiming a curse on himself if he is lying and possibly on those around if they continue to assert that he is a disciple of Jesus

Matt. 26:69-75
Luke 22:54-62
John 18:15-18,
25-27

What motivates Peter to deny Jesus?

What literary and spiritual point does the timing of Peter's denial present?

Jesus before Pilate (15:1-15)

- Blaspheming God was not a crime for the Romans
 - The Sanhedrin substitute treason (a capital offense) for blasphemy
- Pilate can confirm this charge or overturn it
 - This requires that he have a trial to acquaint himself with the case
 - Roman governmental proceedings were held very early in the day
- Pilate would come to Jerusalem during feasts to keep an eye on things
- Jesus rejected the political messiahship many wanted Him to assume, but now he is being tried for the political crime of sedition
- Luke describes the charges of the Sanhedrin in 23:2
- There is a great deal of intrigue and insincerity in the trial
 - Pilate realizes that the Sanhedrin are bringing trumped up charges
 - His attempts to release Jesus are his way of defying the Sanhedrin
- Barabbas means "son of the father" and he may have been a rabbi's son
- Roman scourging was much more severe than Jewish scourging

Matt. 27:1-2,
11-26
Luke 23:1-5,
17-25
John 18:28-
19:16

Why would the people choose Barabbas over Jesus?

Why would Pilate allow a man he believes is innocent to be crucified?