

A Faithful Witness

Mark 14:53-65

In this text Jesus and Peter are interrogated at the same time not too many feet apart at the House of Caiphas. A striking and intentional contrast exists between the two trials.

- Christ was inside the building . . . Peter was in the outside courtyard.
- Christ was being questioned . . . Peter was being questioned.
- False testimony and an unjust jury are inside accusing Jesus of blasphemy . . . Peter, on the other hand, is standing outside clearly guilty of the charge brought before him.
- Inside, Jesus faces His trial with courage . . . Outside Peter was displaying cowardice.
- Inside, Jesus confesses who His is . . . Outside, Peter denies who Jesus is.
- Both had the opportunity to tell the truth . . . Jesus did! . . . Peter did not!
- Christ was innocent of all charges . . . Peter was guilty but denied it
- Christ was held, although innocent of the accusations . . . Peter was released, although guilty of the accusations.
- Both would meet again after Christ's resurrection.

Peter is like the shallow soil in the Parable of the Sower, the soil mentioned in **Mark. 4:5-6** – “Some fell on stony ground, where it did not have much earth; and immediately it sprang up because it had no depth of earth.

But when the sun was up it was scorched, and because it had no root it withered away.” Initially, Jesus receives the word from Jesus with great joy. But when the pressure is on Peter wilts under the scorching heat of the interrogation. In so doing, Peter serves as the model for those who claim to be followers of Christ but whose lifestyles and choices deny Him. They yield to the pressures of the world around and seek to blend in rather than courageously stand apart. In contrast, Christ serves as the model for faithful living before God, regardless of the consequences. **Proverbs 11:7** – “When a wicked man dies, his hope perishes . . .”

God's Plan for Man's Salvation