

New Birth of the Kingdom: Two Denials of Jesus

Matthew 26:57-27:2 November 14, 2020

FRIDAY

(After Sunset on Thursday to Before Sunset on Friday)

Upper Room During Passover

- Passover Meal Matthew 26:20-35
- Upper Room Discourse John 13:1-17:26

Garden of Gethsemane

- Jesus prays in Gethsemane Matthew 26:36-46
- Betrayal and Arrest Matthew 26:47-56

Jewish Trial

- Before Annas John 18:13-24
- Before Caiaphas Matthew 26:57-75
- Before Full Sanhedrin Matthew 27:1-2

Roman Trial

- Before Pilate Matthew 27:2-14
- Before Herod Luke 23:6-12
- Before Pilate Matthew 27:15-26

Crucifixion

- Mocking Matthew 27:27-31
- Crucifixion Matthew 27:32-49
- Death Matthew 27:50-56
- Burial Matthew 27:57-66

Resurrection

- Empty-Tomb Witnesses Matthew 28:1-8
- Resurrection Appearances Matthew 28:9-20

Introduction (26:57-58)

Then those who had seized Jesus led him to Caiaphas the high priest, where the scribes and the elders had gathered.

And Peter was following him at a distance, as far as the courtyard of the high priest, and going inside he sat with the guards to see the end.

Contrast: Jesus the High Priest and Caiaphas, the High Priest

Jesus, the High Priest

Since then we have a **great high priest**

1. **who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God**, let us hold fast our confession.
2. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, **yet without sin**.
3. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Earthly High Priest:

For every high priest

1. chosen from among men is
2. appointed to act on behalf of men in relation to God,
3. to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins.
4. He can deal gently with the ignorant and wayward, since he himself is beset with weakness.
5. Because of this he is obligated to offer sacrifice for his own sins just as he does for those of the people.
6. And no one takes this honor for himself, but only when called by God, just as Aaron was.

Jesus, the High Priest

1. So also Christ did not exalt himself to be made a high priest, but was appointed by him who said to him, "You are my Son, / today I have begotten you"; as he says also in another place, "You are a priest forever, / after the order of Melchizedek."
2. In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to him who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence.
3. Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered.
4. And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him,
5. **being designated by God a high priest after the order of Melchizedek.** (Hebrews 4:14-5:10). (Hebrews 8:1-13 / Hebrews 9:11-14; 9:24-28; 10:11-18)

Caiaphas's Denial of Jesus the Christ

(26:59-68)

First Denial

1. Now the chief priests and the whole council were seeking false testimony against Jesus that they might put him to death,
2. but they found none,
3. though many false witnesses came forward.
4. At last two came forward and said, "This man said, 'I am able to destroy the temple of God, and to rebuild it in three days.'"

Misquoting Jesus to Condemn

The Passover of the Jews was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple he found those who were selling oxen and sheep and pigeons, and the money-changers sitting there. And making a whip of cords, he drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and oxen. And he poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables. And he told those who sold the pigeons, "Take these things away; do not make my Father's house a house of trade." His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me."

So the Jews said to him, "What sign do you show us for doing these things?"

Jesus answered them, "**Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.**"

The Jews then said, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will you raise it up in three days?"

But he was speaking about the temple of his body. When therefore he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the Scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken. (John 2:13-22)

And the high priest stood up and said,

"Have you no answer to make? What is it that these men testify against you?"

But Jesus remained silent.

He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, / **yet he opened not his mouth;**

like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, / and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, / **so he opened not his mouth.**

By oppression and judgment he was taken away; / and as for his generation, who considered that he was cut off out of the land of the living, / stricken for the transgression of my people?

And they made his grave with the wicked / and with a rich man in his death,

although he had done no violence, / and there was no deceit in his mouth. (Isaiah 53:7-9)

Second Denial

And the high priest said to him,

"I adjure you by the living God, tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God."

And the tempter came and said to him, "**If you are the Son of God**, command these stones to become loaves of bread."

But he answered, "It is written, "'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" (Matthew 4:3-4)

Then the devil took him to the holy city and set him on the pinnacle of the temple and said to him, "**If you are the Son of God**, throw yourself down, for it is written, "'He will command his angels concerning you,'

And "'On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.'"

Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.'" (Matthew 4:5-7)

Jesus said to him,

"You have said so.

But I tell you, from now on you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power and coming on the clouds of heaven."

Seated at the Right Hand

The LORD says to my Lord:

"Sit at my right hand, / until I make your enemies your footstool."

The LORD sends forth from Zion / your mighty scepter. / Rule in the midst of your enemies!

Your people will offer themselves freely / on the day of your power, / in holy garments;

from the womb of the morning, / the dew of your youth will be yours.

The LORD has sworn / and will not change his mind,

“You are a priest forever / after the order of Melchizedek.”

The Lord is at your right hand; / he will shatter kings on the day of his wrath.

He will execute judgment among the nations, / filling them with corpses;

he will shatter chiefs / over the wide earth.

He will drink from the brook by the way; / therefore he will lift up his head. (Psalm 10)

Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son,

1. whom he appointed the heir of all things,
2. through whom also he created the world.
3. He is the radiance of the glory of God and
4. the exact imprint of his nature, and
5. he upholds the universe by the word of his power.
6. After making purification for sins,
7. **he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high**, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs. (Hebrews 1:1-4)

Clouds of Heaven: Daniel and Hebrews

“As I looked,

thrones were placed, / and the Ancient of Days took his seat;

his clothing was white as snow, / and the hair of his head like pure wool;

his throne was fiery flames; / its wheels were burning fire.

A stream of fire issued / and came out from before him;

a thousand thousands served him, / and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him;

the court sat in judgment, / and the books were opened.

“I looked then because of the sound of the great words that the horn was speaking. And as I looked, the beast was killed, and its body destroyed and given over to be burned with fire. As for the rest of the beasts, their dominion was taken away, but their lives were prolonged for a season and a time.

“I saw in the night visions,

and behold, **with the clouds of heaven / there came one like a son of man**,

and he came to the Ancient of Days / and was presented before him.

And to him was given dominion / and glory and a kingdom,

that all peoples, nations, and languages / should serve him;

his dominion is an everlasting dominion, / which shall not pass away,

and his kingdom one / that shall not be destroyed. (Daniel 7:9-14)

Therefore do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward. For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God you may receive what is promised. For,

“Yet a little while, / and the coming one will come and will not delay; / but my righteous one shall live by faith, / and if he shrinks back, / my soul has no pleasure in him.”

But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who have faith and preserve their souls. (Hebrews 10:35-39)

Third Denial

Then the high priest tore his robes and said,

“He has uttered **blasphemy**.

What further witnesses do we need?

You have now heard his **blasphemy**.

What is your judgment?”

They answered,

“He deserves death.”

Then they spit in his face and struck him. And some slapped him, saying, “

Prophecy to us, you Christ! Who is it that struck you?”

Blasphemy

Now an Israelite woman's son, whose father was an Egyptian, went out among the people of Israel. And the Israelite woman's son and a man of Israel fought in the camp, and the Israelite woman's son blasphemed the Name, and cursed. Then they brought him to Moses. His mother's name was Shelomith, the daughter of Dibri, of the tribe of Dan. And they put him in custody, till the will of the LORD should be clear to them.

Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

- "Bring out of the camp the one who cursed, and
- let all who heard him lay their hands on his head, and
- let all the congregation stone him.

And speak to the people of Israel, saying, Whoever curses his God shall bear his sin. Whoever blasphemes the name of the LORD shall surely be put to death. All the congregation shall stone him. The sojourner as well as the native, when he blasphemes the Name, shall be put to death. (Leviticus 24:10-16)

Denial of Jesus

Children, it is the last hour, and as you have heard that antichrist is coming, so now many antichrists have come. Therefore we know that it is the last hour. They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us. But they went out, that it might become plain that they all are not of us.

But you have been anointed by the Holy One, and you all have knowledge. I write to you, not because you do not know the truth, but because you know it, and because no lie is of the truth.

Who is the liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, he who denies the Father and the Son. No one who denies the Son has the Father. Whoever confesses the Son has the Father also. Let what you heard from the beginning abide in you. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, then you too will abide in the Son and in the Father. And this is the promise that he made to us—eternal life. (1 John 2:18-25)

Peter's Denial of Jesus the Man (26:69-74)

1. Peter: Speaks Up To Replace Judas

In those days Peter stood up among the brothers (the company of persons was in all about 120) and said,

"Brothers, the Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke beforehand by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus. For he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry." (Acts 1:15-17)

2. Peter: Speaks Up About Jesus After Jesus' Crucifixion

But Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them: "Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and give ear to my words. For these people are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day. But this is what was uttered through the prophet Joel:

"And in the last days it shall be, God declares, / that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh, / and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, / and your young men shall see visions, / and your old men shall dream dreams; (Acts 2:14-17)

"Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know— this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, **you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men.** God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it. (Acts 2:22-24)

3. Peter: Speaks Up About How to Respond To Jesus

And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself." (Acts 2:38-39)

4. Peter: Speaks Up About Jesus' Healing

But Peter said, "I have no silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk!" And he took him by the right hand and raised him up, and immediately his feet and ankles were made strong. And leaping up, he stood and began to walk, and entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God. (Acts 3:6-8)

5. Peter: Speaks Up About Jesus' Death and Resurrection

While he clung to Peter and John, all the people, utterly astounded, ran together to them in the portico called Solomon's. And when Peter saw it he addressed the people:

"Men of Israel, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we have made him walk? The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our fathers, glorified his servant Jesus, **whom you delivered over and denied in the presence of Pilate, when he had decided to release him. But you denied the Holy and Righteous One, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, and you killed the Author of life,** whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. And his name—by faith in his name—has made this man strong whom you see and know, and the faith that is through Jesus has given the man this perfect health in the presence of you all. (Acts 3:11-16)

First Denial

Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard.
And a servant girl came up to him and said,
“You also were with Jesus the Galilean.”
But he denied it before them all, saying,
“I do not know what you mean.”

Second Denial

And when he went out to the entrance, another servant girl saw him, and she said to the bystanders,
“This man was with Jesus of Nazareth.”
And again he denied it with an oath:
“I do not know the man.”

Third Denial

After a little while the bystanders came up and said to Peter,
“Certainly you too are one of them, for your accent betrays you.”
Then he began to invoke a curse on himself and to swear,
“I do not know the man.”

Conclusion: Rejection by Peter and Caiaphas (26:75-27:1-2)

Peter: And immediately the rooster crowed. And Peter remembered the saying of Jesus,
“Before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times.”
And he went out and wept bitterly.

Caiaphas: When morning came, all the chief priests and the elders of the people took counsel against Jesus to put him to death. And they bound him and led him away and delivered him over to Pilate the governor.

Peter vs Caiaphas

And as they were speaking to the people, the priests and the captain of the temple and the Sadducees came upon them, greatly annoyed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead. **And they arrested them and put them in custody until the next day, for it was already evening.** But many of those who had heard the word believed, and the number of the men came to about five thousand.

On the next day their rulers and elders and scribes gathered together in Jerusalem, with Annas the high priest and **Caiaphas** and John and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. And when they had set them in the midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?"

Then **Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit**, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, if we are being examined today concerning a good deed done to a crippled man, by what means this man has been healed, let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, **whom you crucified**, whom God raised from the dead—by him this man is standing before you well.

This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated, common men, they were astonished. **And they recognized that they had been with Jesus.**

But seeing the man who was healed standing beside them, they had nothing to say in opposition. But when they had commanded them to leave the council, they conferred with one another, saying, "What shall we do with these men? For that a notable sign has been performed through them is evident to all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and **we cannot deny it.**

But in order that it may spread no further among the people, **let us warn them to speak no more to anyone in this name.**" So they called them and charged them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus.

But Peter and John answered them, "Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, you must judge, **for we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard.**"

And when they had further threatened them, they let them go, finding no way to punish them, because of the people, for all were praising God for what had happened. For the man on whom this sign of healing was performed was more than forty years old. (Acts 4:1-22)

When they were released, they went to their friends and reported what the chief priests and the elders had said to them. And when they heard it, they lifted their voices together to God and said,

"Sovereign Lord, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and everything in them, who through the mouth of our father David, your servant, said by the Holy Spirit, "Why did the Gentiles rage, / and the peoples plot in vain? / The kings of the earth set themselves, / and the rulers were gathered together, / against the Lord and against his Anointed'—

for truly in this city there were gathered together against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and **the peoples of Israel, to do whatever your hand and your plan had predestined to take place.** And now, Lord, look upon their threats and grant to your servants to continue **to speak your word with all boldness**, while you stretch out your hand to heal, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of your holy servant Jesus."

And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and **they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness.**