

June 10

Jesus Reveals His Identity, Though It Helps His Enemies

Yahweh said to me, "You are my son. Today I have become your father. Ask of me, and I will give the nations for your inheritance"...Now therefore be wise, you kings...Serve Yahweh with fear...Give sincere homage to the Son – Psalm 2:7-12

[Mark 14:53-64, At Caiaphas' house, Thursday before and after dawn] Annas led Jesus away, bound, to Caiaphas the high priest. All the chief priests, the elders, and the scribes came together with him.

Now the chief priests, the elders, and the whole council sought witnesses and false testimony against Jesus to put him to death, and found none, even though many false witnesses came forward. For many gave false testimony against him, and their testimony didn't agree with each other. But at last some stood up, and gave false testimony against him, saying, "We heard him say, 'I will destroy this temple that is made with hands, and in three days I will build another made without hands.'" Even so, their testimony did not agree.

The high priest stood up in the midst, and asked Jesus, "Have you no answer? What is it which these testify against you?" But he stayed quiet, and answered nothing. Again the high priest asked him, "I adjure you by the living God, that you tell us: Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed God?"

Jesus said, "I am. You will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of Power, and coming with the clouds of the sky."

The high priest tore his clothes, and said, "What further need have we of witnesses?

You have heard the blasphemy! What do you think?" They all condemned him to be worthy of death.

The men who held Jesus mocked him and having blindfolded him, they struck him on the face and some began to spit on him, and to cover his face, and to beat him with fists, and to tell him, "Prophecy! Who is the one who struck you?" The officers struck him with the palms of their hands. They spoke many other things against him, insulting him.

As soon as it was day, the assembly of the elders of the people was gathered together, both chief priests and scribes, and they led him away into their council, saying, "If you are the Christ, tell us."*

But he said to them, "If I tell you, you won't believe, and if I ask, you will in no way answer me or let me go. From now on, the Son of Man will be seated at the right hand of the power of God."

They all said, "Are you then the Son of God?"

He said to them, "You say it, because I am."

They said, "Why do we need any more witness? For we ourselves have heard from his own mouth!" [Matthew 26:57-68, Luke 22:63-71, John 18:24]

**[this is the third "trial" of five: first, before Annas; second, before Caiaphas while it was still dark and while no death sentence would be legal by Roman or Jewish law; third, the formal condemnation at dawn when the condemning conversation was repeated; fourth, before Pilate, without whose permission Jesus could not be executed; fifth, before Herod, who sent him back to Pilate. After these five arraignments, Pilate sentenced him to crucifixion.]*

1. Have you been accused? Were you guilty? Did you remain silent? How did you feel?

2. Why did Jesus say "I am"? Have you confessed his deity, even when it cost you? How?

3. Jesus, I'm like Peter, denying you even as you're confessing the truth, please help me...