

Jesus Trials

CHARACTERS: Peter, John, Servant girl, Jesus, Caiaphas, Nicodemus, guard, Pilate,

SETTINGS: Various places at and near Jerusalem

RUN TIME: 10 minutes

SCRIPTURES: Mark 14 & 15

Before you read: Nicodemus was not actually mentioned by name in the gospel of Mark. Based on his past actions and words, might he have been the one who pointed out the testimony given did not agree with other testimony? Why or why not?

Before the Sanhedrin

PETER: They took Jesus to the high priest, and all the chief priests, elders and teachers of the law came together.

JOHN: Peter followed him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest.

PETER: I sat with the guards and warmed myself at the fire.

JOHN: The chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin were looking for evidence against Jesus so that they could put him to death, but they did not find any.

PETER: Many testified falsely against him, but their statements did not agree.

JOHN: Then some stood up and gave this false testimony against him:

WITNESS: We heard him say, 'I will destroy this man-made temple and in three days will build another, not made by man.'

NICODEMUS: Wait. That testimony doesn't agree with the other testimony.

CAIAPHAS: Are you not going to answer? What is this testimony that these men are bringing against you?

JOHN: But Jesus remained silent and gave no answer.

CAIAPHAS: Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed One?

JESUS: I am, and you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven.

CAIAPHAS: *(tearing his clothes)* Why do we need any more witnesses? You have heard the blasphemy. What do you think?

ALL: He is worthy of death.

JOHN: Then some began to spit at him.

PETER: They blindfolded him, struck him with their fists, and said

GUARD: Prophecy!

JOHN: And the guards took him and beat him.

Peter Disowns Jesus

Before you begin: How will Peter sound when he denies Jesus? How will his voice change from his first denial to his last?

JOHN: While Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant girls of the high priest came by.

SERVANT GIRL: (*looking closely at PETER*) You also were with that Nazarene, Jesus.

PETER: I don't know or understand what you're talking about.

JOHN: He went out into the entryway.

NARR 15: When the servant girl saw him there, she said again

SERVANT GIRL: (*to those standing around*) This fellow is one of them.

PETER: I am not!

GUARD: Surely, you are one of them, for you are a Galilean.

JOHN: Peter began to call down curses on himself, and he swore to them.

PETER: I don't know this man you're talking about!

SERVANT GIRL: Immediately the rooster crowed the second time.

JOHN: Then Peter remembered the word Jesus had spoken to him:

JESUS: Before the rooster crows twice you will disown me three times.

JOHN: Peter broke down and wept.

Jesus Faces Pilate

Before you read: How will John's and Peter's voices reflect how they feel about what is being done to Jesus? How will it be different from the others present?

CAIAPHAS: As soon as it is morning, the chief priests and I will meet with the elders, scribes, and the whole Sanhedrin. Tie Jesus up, and hand Him over to Pilate.

PILATE: Are You the King of the Jews?

JESUS: You have said it.

PETER: The chief priests began to accuse Him of many things.

PILATE: Are you not answering anything? Look how many things they are accusing you of!

PETER: But Jesus still did not answer anything, so Pilate was amazed.

PILATE: It is my custom to release for you people a prisoner you request.

CAIAPHAS: *(aside to other priests and Pharisees)* Ask for the one named Barabbas, who is in prison with rebels who had committed murder during the rebellion.

ALL: Give us our prisoner.

PILATE: Do you want me to release the King of the Jews for you? *(aside to audience)* It is because of envy that the chief priests had handed Jesus over.

CAIAPHAS: Stir up the crowd to release Barabbas instead.

ALL: Barabbas. We want Barabbas!

PILATE: Then what do you want me to do with the one you call the King of the Jews?

ALL: Crucify Him!

PILATE: Why? What has He done wrong?

ALL: *(louder)* Crucify Him!

PILATE: I am willing to gratify the crowd. Release Barabbas. Have Jesus flogged and crucified.

PETER: Then the soldiers led Him away into the courtyard that was their headquarters and called the whole company together.

GUARD: Dress Jesus in a purple robe and twist together a crown of thorns to put on him.

PETER: They began to salute Him.

ALL: *(as guards, mocking)* Hail, King of the Jews!

JOHN: They kept hitting Him on the head with a reed and spitting on Him.

PETER: Getting down on their knees, they were paying Him homage.

GUARD: We're done mocking him. Strip Him of the purple robe, put His clothes on Him, and lead Him out to crucify Him.