

UP TO JERUSALEM (EASTER 2020)

SON OF MAN CONDEMNED TO DEATH BY RELIGIOUS AUTHORITIES

3/29/2020

Jesus unflinchingly faces His accusers.

READ: *Matthew 26:57–68 (ESV)*

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

58 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.

59 Now the chief priests and the whole council were seeking false testimony against Jesus that they might put him to death,

60 but they found none, though many false witnesses came forward. At last two came forward

61 and said, "This man said, 'I am able to destroy the temple of God, and to rebuild it in three days.'"

62 And the high priest stood up and said, "Have you no answer to make? What is it that these men testify against you?"

63 But Jesus remained silent. 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."

64 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."

65 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.

66 What is your judgment?" They answered, "He deserves death."

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

68 saying, "Prophecy to us, you Christ! Who is it that struck you?"

SERMON OUTLINE

1. NOT A NORMAL MEETING

READ: *Matthew 26:57-58*

NOTES: _____

DISCUSS: *How did the religious authorities deliberately breaking their own laws reveal their intentions? What are some areas we are tempted to "go around the system" in order to get what we want?*

2. NOT A NORMAL MOTIVE

READ: *Matthew 26:59-62*

NOTES: _____

DISCUSS: *Do the ends always justify the means? In other words, is it acceptable to do whatever we need to do as long as our motives are pure? Why or why not?*

3. NOT A NORMAL RESPONSE

READ: *Matthew 26:63-64*

NOTES: _____

DISCUSS: *Based on Jesus' response to the false accusations, how can we remain faithful in the face of resistance or even persecution? Are we willing to commit to doing so today?*

4. NOT A NORMAL JUDGMENT

READ: *Matthew 26:65-68*

NOTES: _____

DISCUSS: *How does the verdict (death) fit the crime (blasphemy)? How do we see similar responses to Christ today? How does Christ's example inform our desire to defend ourselves?*

TAKEAWAY

Jesus stands on the truth in the midst of evil men with evil desires that lead to their evil deeds.