

Discussion Notes
Mark 14.53-72
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As we move into the passage, consider Peter and Jesus' trajectories. They are strikingly different, despite Peter's claims of allegiance.

Notes on the passage:

- A kangaroo court is thrown together for Jesus. He is unjustly tried, but suffers for the good of humankind.
- Jesus out rightly says "I AM" for the first time, finally fully revealing his identity to Israel's leadership. John's Gospel shows us this over the course of the book, but Mark waits for this big moment before the Sanhedrin.
- Jesus uses language of God and authority and signs his own death warrant with these words.
- He is mocked, beaten, abused. But Jesus is steadfast and knows the way ahead.
- For all Peter's bravado, he falls apart and fails. The Church that Mark was writing his story for was under pressure. Their model must be Jesus, not Peter. This is an intentional contrast in the narrative.

Implications for today:

- Faithfulness is difficult.
- God helps us to be faithful.

Discussion Questions:

- What stands out to you in this passage? What did you notice or learn?
- What must we notice about the contrast between Peter and Jesus and why does Mark make such a show of it?
- What strikes you about the timing of Jesus big reveal about himself, the "I AM" statement? Why does Mark place it where he does in the story?
- How is Jesus' way different than Peter's?
- Why is being misunderstood by someone so painful?
- How have you remained faithful to God in the midst of hardship? How can we remain faithful in the future?