

Presentation 12

Mark's Passion Story

Act Two: Mk 14.53-15.20



Christ Before Pilate, 1880 (oil on canvas), Munkacsy, Mihaly (1844-1900)

Public Domain: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Munkacsy_-_Christ_in_front_of_Pilate.jpg

Act Two: Mk 14.53-15.20—The Trials

Mk 14.53-44

- Jesus' religious trial before the High Priest and the religious establishment.
- Peter follows 'at a distance' = Peter's professed intimacy with Jesus waning. Peter allegiance slowly changing.

Mk 14.55-66

- Jesus' religious trial: summary of christological titles. Jesus is the Temple, the Christ, Son of Man, and Son of the Blessed. Jesus is God's I AM.
- The High Priest declares Jesus as blasphemous and deserves death.
- Jesus is physically abused by the guards and ironically declared as prophet.



The Denial of Saint Peter, an oil-on-canvas painting by Gerard Seghers, dating to around 1620–1625

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Mk 14.67-72

- Peter's religious trial next unfolds, as he is accused as one with Jesus and a member of his disciple. Peter denies communion with Jesus and companionship with disciples. The circle of accusers expands.
- Peter's remorse is clear after he remembers Jesus' words: Peter 'broke down and wept' (14.72).

Mk 15.1-20

- A consultation amongst the religious authorities brings Jesus to Pilate.
- The key theme of the civil / political trial affirms Jesus as 'king of the Judeans'.
- Pilate 'wonders' (15.5) – a theological, religious mystery that Pilate is dealing with, and seeks to release Jesus.
- Jesus is finally handed over to Pilate's soldiers. He is scourged (by Pilate) and then the battalion ironically invests Jesus as King before he is led out to be crucified (15.20).

FOR FURTHER REFLECTION & CONVERSATION

- Have you ever experienced being 'under trial' or scrutiny, not believed or have had your truthfulness questioned? Do you know of others who have been subject to similar interrogation?
- In what ways could we create communities of support for those who feel unsupported, attacked or abused?

IN PREPARATION FOR THE NEXT PRESENTATION

- Read Act Three of Mark's Passion Narrative: Mark 15.21-47.

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