

Sitting in Judgment over God

Mark 14:53-72

*“Never forget that the King of the Jews suffered all this in silent majesty, without protest, so that he could do the perfect work of our salvation. Never lose hope that Jesus did this so he would have something to say when we ourselves are put on trial. One day we will all appear before God for judgment. If we have nothing to say then, it will not be because of our perfect innocence, but because there is nothing we can really say in defense of our sinful selves. But Jesus will have something to say! Though silent in his own defense, he will not be silent in the defense of anyone who trusts in him. Jesus has promised that one day he will openly acknowledge everyone who openly acknowledges him (Luke 12:8).
Ryken*

- I. Those who pass judgment on God in ways that reject the truth of his Word have a form of godliness but deny its power. They show contempt for the riches of his kindness, tolerance and patience not realizing that his kindness could lead them toward repentance (Rom. 2:4). The righteous are to have nothing to do with them (2 Tim 3:1-5). It doesn't mean that we never interact with the ungodly. Instead, it means that we are not to embrace in any way their religion of secularism. They will falsely accuse us of wrongdoing, but what matters most as salt and light in this world is that we conduct ourselves in a manner worthy of our salvation.

Mark 14:53-59

Luke 6:37

Prov. 6:16-19

Phil 1:27 *Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in the one Spirit, striving together as one for the faith of the gospel.*

1 Peter 2:12 *Conduct yourselves with such honor among the Gentiles that, though they slander you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day He visits us.*

“A man sits in judgment over God deluded by his own sense of intellectual sovereignty.” Ryken

- II. The suffering that Jesus endured for the sake of the gospel was necessary to fulfill the requirements of a merciful and faithful High Priest. Being made perfect through suffering means that Jesus brought to completion the requirements necessary for performing his priestly role and ministry in our lives. His priestly ministry in our hearts helps us when we are tempted, comforts us in our suffering, and sympathizes with our weaknesses. He invites us to approach his throne of grace with confidence so that we can receive the mercy and grace necessary to help us in our time of need.

Mark 14:60-65

Isa. 53:7-8

Lev. 24:16

Heb. 2:17-18

Heb. 4:14:16

1 Peter 2:21-25

2 Cor 1:3-5

Heb. 2:10-11 *In bringing many sons to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the author of their salvation perfect through suffering. Both the one who makes men holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers.*

- III. Peter's denial of Christ came at a moment when he was physically, emotionally, and spiritually at his weakest. It made for a perfect storm that sank him in his faith. He got into trouble when he left the safety of being with a fellow believer and chose instead to put himself in the company of those who couldn't care less about his spiritual wellbeing. At that moment, the fear of man overpowered his fear of God, and he did what he never thought he would, he denied his best friend and Savior, Jesus.

Mark 14:66-72

1 Cor. 10:12 If you think you are standing strong, be careful not to fall.