

The High Priest Condemned Our High Priest

Written by Bill Perkins

"You have heard His blasphemy.
What is your decision?"
And they all condemned Him to death."
- Mk 14:64

You may not know this about Jesus,
but after the first trial,
they dragged Him to a second hearing
at the home of Caiaphas, the high priest.
That hearing ended without a verdict.
So when the full Sanhedrin arrived,
they held the final religious trial
in the same place-
where the night questioning ended
and the formal trial began.

Lamps flickered against stone,
faces stiff with hatred (Mt 26).

The Sanhedrin were serpents,
coiled in the shadows,
ready to strike.

Guards lined the walls,
hungry for violence.

False witnesses stepped forward,
their words like wasps without stingers-
circling, buzzing,
yet powerless to wound (Mk 14).

At last the rulers thought
they would crush the one
who had shamed them,
exposed them,

and threatened their power.
A man they could never trap-
until tonight.

Two witnesses came
and twisted His words-
a distortion sharp enough
to hang a verdict on (Mk 14).
The room leaned in.

Caiaphas rose
and asked the question
beneath every question:

"Are You the Messiah,
the Son of God?" (Mt 26).

Jesus said,
"I AM.
And you will see the Son of Man
seated at the right hand of Power,
and coming with the clouds of heaven" (Mk 14).

Rage exploded.
The high priest tore his robes-
a violation of the Law (Lev 21).
"You have heard His blasphemy!" (Mt 26).

The council answered as one:
"He is deserving of death" (Mt 26).

Then the blindfold (Mk 14),
the spit (Mk 14),
the fists (Mk 14),
the mockery:
"Tell us, Messiah-
who hit You?" (Lu 22).

And the prophets were right:
"He was oppressed and afflicted,
yet He opened not His mouth" (Isa 53).
And it was night.

How does Jesus' meekness in this moment-
power restrained,
truth spoken with grace-

shape the way I follow Him
when I face accusation or misunderstanding?

Jesus showed meekness-
He answered with truth and grace.
This is the way He offers me as I follow Him.

Father, help me bow to Your will, not mine.
I ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.