



**August 23, 2020**

**Luke 22:63-71**

<sup>63</sup> The men who were guarding Jesus began mocking and beating him. <sup>64</sup> They blindfolded him and demanded, "Prophecy! Who hit you?" <sup>65</sup> And they said many other insulting things to him.

<sup>66</sup> At daybreak the council of the elders of the people, both the chief priests and the teachers of the law, met together, and Jesus was led before them. <sup>67</sup> "If you are the Messiah," they said, "tell us."

Jesus answered, "If I tell you, you will not believe me, <sup>68</sup> and if I asked you, you would not answer. <sup>69</sup> But from now on, the Son of Man will be seated at the right hand of the mighty God."

<sup>70</sup> They all asked, "Are you then the Son of God?"

He replied, "You say that I am."

<sup>71</sup> Then they said, "Why do we need any more testimony? We have heard it from his own lips."

## COMMENTARY

**22:63-65** Jesus' horrific treatment at the hands of the soldiers is also described in Mt 26:67; Mk 14:65.

**22:66** By rule it had to be daylight outside for the Sanhedrin (ruling council of the Jews) to hold a trial in which they decided on the death penalty (which could only be carried out by the Roman government). This explains why they waited for daylight. However, in several other respects the trial was illegal: (1) No trial could be held on the morning of a feast day (i.e., Passover), (2) there was no formal defense offered for Jesus, and (3) the verdict was reached in one day, not the two days required for capital offenses.

**22:67-69** In a tactical move that may have been designed to keep Rome from thinking Jesus intended to ascend Israel's vacant throne, Jesus did not give a direct answer to the question of whether He was the Messiah. Since He knew He could not expect fair treatment from the members of the Sanhedrin, Jesus identified Himself as the Son of Man who would sit as judge over them in a much higher court in heaven ( at the right hand).

**22:70-71** The Sanhedrin understood Jesus' previous claim to be Messiah, but they wanted to catch Him in what they thought was a more clear-cut blasphemy: the claim that He was the Son of God. Jesus' response seems vague to modern readers, but those present understood it as a clear confession. Having this in hand, they concluded there was no need for any more testimony.

## MAIN POINT

Jesus gave Himself fully to the will of God in order to save sinners who could not save themselves.

## INTRODUCTION

*As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.*

**How do you decide which option is best when you are faced with a difficult decision?**

**What kinds of factors play into your decision making process?**

**Do you ever second guess yourself?**

For the Christian, one of the questions we must ask in every decision regards the will of God. But even if we know what the will of God is in a given situation, we might choose an alternative, particularly if the will of God seems difficult. Thankfully, though, Jesus

never strayed from God's will, though He was tempted to do so. Above all, He was committed to carrying out the plan of God: His own death.

## **UNDERSTANDING**

*Unpack the biblical text to discover what the Scripture says or means about a particular topic.*

- HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ LUKE 22:63-71.

**Why would the guards treat Jesus as they did?**

**What physical and emotional shape do you think Jesus was in by daybreak (v. 66)?**

**How is the concern of the elders and priests in verses 67-70 different from the concern that they brought to Pilate (see Luke 23:2)?**

**Why might they have given different reasons to different audiences?**

**How did Jesus' response to the Sanhedrin show He was trusting in His father and not the leaders of His day?**

To the Sanhedrin, Jesus' claim to be God's Son was blasphemy, and it was all the justification they needed for His execution. The Sanhedrin needed no other witness against Him, for they had achieved their purpose. Not realizing they stood before the One who would judge the universe, these human judges rendered a verdict of "guilty." They sought to humiliate Jesus, but what they did would lead to His being exalted and glorified on the cross and in the heavenly throne room.

## **NEXT STEP**

*Help your group identify how the truths from the Scripture passage apply directly to their lives.*

**How specifically can you be more conscious this week of Jesus' sacrifice on your behalf?**

**How does Jesus' obedience in going to the cross encourage us to be obedient in sharing about Him with others?**

**Jesus was preparing to make the ultimate sacrifice on behalf of you and I. What sacrifices does God ask of us today, and what influence should the cross have on our response?**

## **PRAYER**

Praise Jesus this week for His faithfulness to the will of God. Thank Him for remaining strong, despite the temptation He faced. Ask God to continue to open your heart more and more to appreciate the greatness of Jesus' sacrifice on the cross.