

Study Guide

April 13 2025
A Night of Chaos
Matthew 26:57-75

Welcome to the Spring 2025 season of GLCs. We are jumping back into the Gospel of Matthew and we will be studying this great book until the Sunday after Easter. May the Lord bless each of you as you study this great book together.

exploring

We will explore God's word together, looking at the actual words of the passage each week.

digging

We will dig deeper into the word, discussing the context and meaning of the passage.

growing

We will discuss how the passage is applied to our own lives.

going

We will discuss how the passage informs, challenges, and encourages our gospel witness.

Read Matthew 26:57-75 (ESV)

57 Then those who had seized Jesus led him to Caiaphas the high priest, where the scribes and the elders had gathered. 58 And Peter was following him at a distance, as far as the courtyard of the high priest, and going inside he sat with the guards to see the end. 59 Now the chief priests and the whole council were seeking false testimony against Jesus that they might put him to death, 60 but they found none, though many false witnesses came forward. At last two came forward 61 and said, “This man said, ‘I am able to destroy the temple of God, and to rebuild it in three days.’” 62 And the high priest stood up and said, “Have you no answer to make? What is it that these men testify against you?” 63 But Jesus remained silent. And the high priest said to him, “I adjure you by the living God, tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God.” 64 Jesus said to him, “You have said so. But I tell you, from now on you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power and coming on the clouds of heaven.” 65 Then the high priest tore his robes and said, “He has uttered blasphemy. What further witnesses do we need? You have now heard his blasphemy. 66 What is your judgment?” They answered, “He deserves death.” 67 Then they spit in his face and struck him. And some slapped him, 68 saying, “Prophecy to us, you Christ! Who is it that struck you?”

69 Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. And a servant girl came up to him and said, “You also were with Jesus the Galilean.” 70 But he denied it before them all, saying, “I do not know what you mean.” 71 And when he went out to the entrance, another servant girl saw him, and she said to the bystanders, “This man was with Jesus of Nazareth.” 72 And again he denied it with an oath: “I do not know the man.” 73 After a little while the bystanders came up and said to Peter, “Certainly you too are one of them, for your accent betrays you.” 74 Then he began to invoke a curse on himself and to swear, “I do not know the man.” And immediately the rooster crowed. 75 And Peter remembered the saying of Jesus, “Before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times.” And he went out and wept bitterly.

Exploring

1. What detail does John 18:12 include about Jesus' arrest that Matthew doesn't mention?
2. Did the false witnesses accurately quote what Jesus had said about "the temple of God"? (compare with John 2:19)
3. The NIV footnotes show that the word translated "Christ" could also be "Messiah" (vs. 63, 68). What do these terms mean? Do a little research if you need to.

Digging

1. What do the terms/names Caiaphas uses to address Jesus imply concerning what he knew about Jesus' claims and identity?
2. Read Daniel 7:13-14 and Psalm 110:1. How do these Old Testament contexts explain why Caiaphas tore his robes after Jesus' answer in verse 64?
3. Pastor Imran noted 4 things about the trial of Jesus that were illegal and unjust according to Jewish law. How did the circumstances of Jesus' trial violate these laws? Fill in the details of the following situations:
 - a. The trial was supposed to take place during the day.
 - i. Jesus' trial
 - b. The trial was supposed to occur in the hall of judgement in the temple area.
 - i. Jesus trial....(see Luke 22:54)
 - c. Trials were not allowed during feast days.
 - i. Jesus trial....
 - d. The Jewish Sanhedrin was supposed to be just and impartial, listen fairly, give a fair verdict.
 - i. At Jesus trial.....
4. Choose the violation that strikes you as the most blatant or cruel and explain why.
5. Imagine if this would have been a fair trial and true witnesses would have been called to testify. Mention a witness that could have clearly defended Jesus' claims to be the Christ, son of God.

Growing

1. Have you ever experienced any of the abuses that Jesus experienced during His arrest and trial? How do your experiences help you to understand and identify with Jesus and appreciate what He went through for you/us? Share with the group if you are free to do so.
2. Pastor Imran gave a couple of reasons for why these leaders were seeking false witnesses and having this trial behind closed doors.
 - a. So that the scriptures might be fulfilled (Zechariah 11, 12, 13)
 - b. Potential insecurity and/or selfish agendas.
 - i. Think of a modern day example of using God's Word for selfish agendas. How can we guard against falling into this trap?
3. What temptations do you think Peter gave into when he denied Jesus?
 - i. What steps can we take to be ready for such temptations? (See Matt. 4:1-11, and 26:40-41)
4. What advantage do we have now that Jesus is not with us physically in person as he was with the disciples? (John 16:7) Explain this advantage.
5. Matthew carefully arranges 3 failures in a row: Judas, the religious leaders, Peter. We know from other biblical contexts that Peter received forgiveness, was restored (John 21, Acts, 1&2 Peter).
 - a. Why does the Bible talk so openly about the failures and sins of leaders?
 - b. How does this encourage and motivate you?

Going

Consider how your testimony, including your sins and failures, might be encouraging and helpful to someone who needs to know about Christ's offer of forgiveness, restoration, and fruitfulness. With whom could you share it?