

## Mark 14:53-65, Mark 15:1-5 New Living Translation (NLT)

### Jesus before the Council

**53** They took Jesus to the high priest's home where the leading priests, the elders, and the teachers of religious law had gathered.

**54** Meanwhile, Peter followed him at a distance and went right into the high priest's courtyard. There he sat with the guards, warming himself by the fire. **55** Inside, the leading priests and the entire high council[a] were trying to find evidence against Jesus, so they could put him to death. But they couldn't find any. **56** Many false witnesses spoke against him, but they contradicted each other. **57** Finally, some men stood up and gave this false testimony: **58** "We heard him say, 'I will destroy this Temple made with human hands, and in three days I will build another, made without human hands.'" **59** But even then they didn't get their stories straight! **60** Then the high priest stood up before the others and asked Jesus, "Well, aren't you going to answer these charges? What do you have to say for yourself?" **61** But Jesus was silent and made no reply. Then the high priest asked him, "Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?" **62** Jesus said, "I am. [b] And you will see the Son of Man seated in the place of power at God's right hand[c] and coming on the clouds of heaven.[d]"

**63** Then the high priest tore his clothing to show his horror and said, "Why do we need other witnesses? **64** You have all heard his blasphemy. What is your verdict?" "Guilty!" they all cried. "He deserves to die!" **65** Then some of them began to spit at him, and they blindfolded him and beat him with their fists. "Prophecy to us," they jeered. And the guards slapped him as they took him away.

### Footnotes:

- a 14:55 Greek *the Sanhedrin*.
- b 14:62a Or *The 'I am' is here; or I am the Lord*. See Exod 3:14.
- c 14:62b Greek *seated at the right hand of the power*. See Ps 110:1.
- d 14:62c See Dan 7:13.

### Questions:

1. What were the chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin looking for in order to put Jesus to death?

Did they find what they were looking for?

2. When asked if he was the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One - how did Jesus respond?

3. Why is important to you that Jesus is the Messiah?

4. Why did the high priest tear his clothing?

5. Why did Jesus have to die? Explain