

## **Jesus Before the Sanhedrin**

Matthew 26:57-75

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Jesus was led off to the house of Caiaphas, the high priest. Peter followed at a distance and went right into the courtyard of the house.

The religious leaders came together in an assembly known as the Sanhedrin. They were looking for evidence that would allow them to execute Jesus. Most of the lies people told about Jesus were unusable. But then two men claimed, "This man said, 'I am able to destroy the Temple of God and rebuild it in three days.' "

Jesus remained silent until the high priest put him under oath and demanded to know, "Are you the Messiah, the Son of God?"

Jesus answered, "Yes, as you've said. And you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of the Almighty."

The high priest tore his robe and asked, "Why do we need any more evidence? You heard his blasphemy. What's your verdict?"

They all agreed he deserved to die. Some of them spit in his face and struck him, saying, "Tell us, Messiah, who hit you that time?"

In the courtyard, a servant girl saw Peter and said, "You were with Jesus."

Peter denied it, "I don't know what you're talking about!"

He went out by the gate. Another girl saw him and said, "This man was with Jesus of Nazareth."

Again Peter denied it, "I don't even know the man."

A while later, some others said to Peter, "You must be one of them, you're from Galilee."

Peter began to curse and swear, "I don't know the man." And just then a rooster crowed. Peter remembered what Jesus had said. "Before the rooster crows today, you will deny three times that you even know me."

Peter went outside and wept uncontrollably.