

**Mark 14:53-65**  
Who Is the Judge?  
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Gospel of Grace Fellowship  
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**Jesus Is Led Away to the Sanhedrin**  
Mark 14:53-54 They led Jesus away to **the high priest**; and all the chief priests and **the elders** and the **scribes** gathered together. 54 Peter had followed Him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest; and he was sitting with the officers and warming himself at the fire.  
**High priest** = Caiaphas  
**Elders** = wealthy land owners (Sadducees)  
**Scribes** = experts on law and oral tradition (both parties)

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**False Accusations Are Made Against Christ**  
Mark 14:55-59 Now the chief priests and the whole Council kept trying to obtain testimony against Jesus to put Him to death, and they were not finding any. 56 For many were giving false testimony against Him, but their testimony was not consistent. 57 Some stood up and began to give false testimony against Him, saying, 58 **We heard Him say, I will destroy this temple made with hands, and in three days I will build another made without hands.** 59 Not even in this respect was their testimony consistent.

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**Why Was Their Testimony Inconsistent?**

▶ **Made “with hands” is a deficient work of man:**  
Lev. 26:1a You shall not make for yourselves idolsō

Hebrews 9:24 For Christ did not enter a holy place made with hands, a mere copy of the true one, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for usō

John 2:19 Jesus answered them, %**Destroy this temple**, and in three days **I will raise it up.**+

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**The Question With Repercussions**

Mark 14:60-61 The high priest stood up and came forward and questioned Jesus, saying, %**Do You not answer? What is it that these men are testifying against You?+** 61 But He kept silent and did not answer. Again the high priest was questioning Him, and saying to Him, %**Are You the Christ, the Son of the Blessed One?+**

**Christ** = Messiah (the anointed one . Isaiah 61:1)  
**Son of the Blessed One** = periphrasis (Ps. 2:7)

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**The Jewish Expectation of Messiah**

▶ **The majority of Israelites wrongly believed that Messiah would be merely a man:**

Trypho 49:1 %Those who affirm him to have been a man, and to have been anointed by election, and then to have become Christ, appear to me to speak more plausibly than you who hold those opinions which you express. For we all expect that Christ will **be a man [born] of men**, and that Elijah when he comes will anoint him.+

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**Jesus' Straightforward Answer**

Mark 14:62-65 And Jesus said, **%am;** and you shall see THE SON OF MAN SITTING AT THE RIGHT HAND OF POWER, and COMING WITH THE CLOUDS OF HEAVEN.+ 63 Tearing his clothes, the high priest said, **%hat further need do we have of witnesses? 64 You have heard the blasphemy;** how does it seem to you?+**And they all condemned Him to be deserving of death. 65 Some began to spit at Him, and to blindfold Him, and to beat Him with their fists, and to say to Him, %prophecy!**+And the officers received Him with slaps in the face.

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**Implications**

1. We should learn from this narrative that Jesus openly proclaimed to be the Messiah, and that Israel's leadership knew it.
2. We should see the deep irony in Jesus being told to **%prophecy+**by those beating Him which, in turn, fulfilled prophecy!
3. We must realize who the true judge is.

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**1. Jesus Openly Claimed to Be Messiah**

Mark 3:12 And He earnestly warned them **not to tell who He was.**

Mark 7:36 And He gave them orders **not to tell anyone**ō

Mark 8:30 And He warned them **to tell no one about Him.**

Mark 14:61b-62a ō the high priest was questioning Him, and saying to Him, **%Are You the Christ, the Son of the Blessed One?+ 62 And Jesus said, %amō +**

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**1. The World Is Confronted With Jesus' Claims**

**The Four Possibilities Regarding Christ's Claims:**

- 1. **Legend:** Tacitus . Christ crucified under P. Pilate
- 2. **Lunatic:** Jesus's brother James believed/martyred
- 3. **Liar:** Isaiah 35:6; 53:1-12; 61:1; Micah 5:2
- 4. **Lord:** Psalm 110:1; Daniel 7:13

You can shut him up for a fool, you can spit at him and kill him as a demon or you can fall at his feet and call him Lord and God, but let us not come with any patronizing nonsense about his being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to.+(C.S. Lewis)

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**2. The Irony of Jesus' Fulfilling Prophecy**

Mark 14:65 Some began to spit at Him, and to blindfold Him, and to beat Him with their fists, and to say to Him, **Prophecy!** And the officers received Him with slaps in the face.

Isaiah 11:2-3 The Spirit of the LORD will rest on Him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and strength, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. **3** And He will delight in the fear of the LORD, and **He will not judge by what His eyes see**, nor make a decision by what His ears hear

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**3. Who Is the Judge?**

Mark 14:62 And Jesus said, **I am**; and you shall see **THE SON OF MAN SITTING AT THE RIGHT HAND OF POWER**, and **COMING WITH THE CLOUDS OF HEAVEN**.

Ps. 110:1 The LORD says to my Lord: **Sit at My right hand** Until I make Your enemies a footstool for Your feet.

Dan. 7:13 **I** kept looking in the night visions, and behold, **with the clouds of heaven One like a Son of Man was coming**, and He came up to the Ancient of Days and was presented before Him.

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