

Sermon Reflections

The Good Confession, (Part 1) Matthew 26:57-75

Summary: When difficulties arise, our faith gets tested. And what surfaces is either courage or cowardice, faithfulness or failure. How can we prepare to be faithful to make the good confession?

Make the Good Confession (Matthew 26:57-75)

1. Take Courage in the Face of Christ's Faithfulness (Matthew 26:57-68)

A. For You, He Remains Silent (vv. 57-63a)

- The religious leaders had plenty of opportunities to see the truth of who Jesus was through his years of ministry, yet they were determined to silence Him by killing Him. Have you ever attempted to silence the Holy Spirit and your conscience by justifying your sin or disregarding the truth of Scripture? How do we ensure that we do not fall into this trap?
- Many times, on the way to His death, Jesus remained silent in the face of insults and lies. In doing so, Jesus demonstrated His trust in God's plan and ultimately fulfilled Old Testament prophesy (e.g. Isaiah 53:7). Should we emulate Christ's silence in the face of ridicule? Where is the line between remaining silent while we turn the other cheek (Matthew 5) and combating lies with the truth?

B. For You, He Makes the Good Confession (vv. 63b-64)

- Jesus boldly proclaimed who he was to the religious leaders, which would ultimately lead to His death. Do you emulate Christ's boldness when pressed by others about your faith? How can you better rely on the Holy Spirit's power when proclaiming the truth of Christ when under pressure?
- In I Timothy 6:11-14 Paul links the public confession of believers with the confession of Christ (before Pilate). In the context, Paul is exhorting Timothy to "pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness" and to "fight the good fight of the faith." How does understanding the "good confession" compel and enable us to do these things? What is one way you can pursue these things this week?

C. For You, He Receives Their Condemnation (vv. 65-68)

- After Jesus' confession, the religious leaders spat on him and struck him while condemning him to death. In I Peter 2:21-25, Peter commends us to follow in Christ's example of trusting ourselves to the righteous Judge while enduring reviling and suffering. Peter also explains that in His death, Jesus bore our sins so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. Are you emulating Christ when enduring suffering? Does your response to reviling look more righteous than sinful? Pray that the Spirit will empower your responses to be Christlike.