



Peace In The Storms

“And the high priest arose, and said unto him, Answerest thou nothing? what is it which these witness against thee?” (Matthew 26:62).

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“And they that had laid hold on Jesus led him away to Caiaphas the high priest, where the scribes and the elders were assembled. 58 But Peter followed him afar off unto the high priest's palace, and went in, and sat with the servants, to see the end. 59 Now the chief priests, and elders, and all the council, sought false witness against Jesus, to put him to death; 60 But found none: yea, though many false witnesses came, yet found they none. At the last came two false witnesses, 61 And said, This fellow said, I am able to destroy the temple of God, and to build it in three days. 62 And the high priest arose, and said unto him, Answerest thou nothing? what is it which these witness against thee? 63 But Jesus held his peace, And the high priest answered and said unto him, I adjure thee by the living God, that thou tell us whether thou be the Christ, the Son of God. 64 Jesus saith unto him, Thou hast said: nevertheless I say unto you, Hereafter shall ye see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven. 65 Then the high priest rent his clothes, saying, He hath spoken blasphemy; what further need have we of witnesses? behold, now ye have heard his blasphemy. 66 What think ye? They answered and said, He is guilty of death. 67 Then did they spit in his face, and buffeted him; and others smote him with the palms of their hands, 68 Saying, Prophecy unto us, thou Christ, Who is he that smote thee?” (Matthew 26:57-68).

The prayer time is over. Jesus had fully submitted to the will of His father, and it is now time to fulfil it. The arrest crowd has arrived to commence the process of mock trial that would ultimately end in the crucifixion of Jesus. The text highlights the following:

- 1) Jesus led to an assembled crowd of high priest, scribes and elders (vs 57)
- 2) Following afar off, resulted in Peter sitting with the wrong crowd (vs 58)
- 3) False witnesses sought for the only purpose of putting Jesus to death (vs 59);
- 4) Despite their effort, they could not get any genuine witness against Jesus. However, two false witnesses stepped up into an ‘irresistible opportunity that they could not miss (vs 60);

“But Peter followed him afar off unto the high priest's palace, and went in, and sat with the servants, to see the end” (Matthew 26:58).

- 5) Their witness was based on superficial misunderstanding of prophecy (vs 61), to which Jesus answered nothing. It is pointless arguing with a fool who is not interested in facts and reason.
- 6) His silence prompted the high priest to demand a response to the accusation, which Jesus still refused to give (vs 62),
- 7) The high priest then adjured Him to confirm His identity, and Jesus did not hesitate to do so. (vs 63,64)
- 8) It is the true identify of Christ that they did not want to hear, and that is what Jesus would not stop declaring. That confirmation gave them the ‘false evidence’ they needed to proceed with their diabolical intent (vs 65-68).

Observe the following salient points in this account:

- 1) Whilst Peter followed ‘afar off’.
- 2) Jesus remained cool, calm and in control of the developing situation.

What makes the difference between the attitudes of the two - obviously their success or failure at the “Amen Corner” (i.e. time of prayer).

- 1) The danger of following afar off resulted in sitting with the wrong crowd and ultimately denying Jesus. Jesus is not interested in the cold and lukewarm but the hot and fiery follower (Revelation 3)
- 2) The cool, calm, collected and in control disposition of Jesus enabled Him to stay focused on the course and overcame. When you life is built on the solid rock of ages, you can withstand any storm (Matthew 7). In the midst of storms, those who know their God will be strong and do exploits (Daniel 11:32), while the fearful and prayerless will falter and fall. May God uphold us in the storms of life!