

PARALLEL ARRANGEMENT OF THE STORIES OF JESUS' SUFFERING & RESURRECTION

TRIAL BEFORE THE JEWISH LEADERS

June 14, 2020 — from the New International Version (2011)

Matthew 26:57-58

⁵⁷ Those who had arrested Jesus took him to Caiaphas the high priest, where the teachers of the law and the elders had assembled. ⁵⁸ But Peter followed him at a distance, right up to the courtyard of the high priest. He entered and sat down with the guards to see the outcome.

Mark 14:53-54

⁵³ They took Jesus to the high priest, and all the chief priests, the elders and the teachers of the law came together. ⁵⁴ Peter followed him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest. There he sat with the guards and warmed himself at the fire.


Luke 22:54-55

⁵⁴ Then seizing him, they led him away and took him into the house of the high priest. Peter followed at a distance. ⁵⁵ And when some there had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and had sat down together, Peter sat down with them.

John 18:12-16

¹² Then the detachment of soldiers with its commander and the Jewish officials arrested Jesus. They bound him ¹³ and brought him first to Annas, who was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, the high priest that year. ¹⁴ Caiaphas was the one who had advised the Jewish leaders that it would be good if one man died for the people. ¹⁵ Simon Peter and another disciple were following Jesus. Because this disciple was known to the high priest, he went with Jesus into the high priest's courtyard, ¹⁶ but Peter had to wait outside at the door. The other disciple, who was known to the high priest, came back, spoke to the servant girl on duty there and brought Peter in.

In Matthew & Mark, Peter's first denial is mentioned later in order to describe all three denials together (Matthew 26:70, Mark 14:68). Mark & Matthew report Jesus' trial first, followed by Peter's denials; Luke reverses the order. Apparently Jesus' trial & Peter's denials happened at the same time.



Luke 22:56-57

⁵⁶ A servant girl saw him seated there in the firelight. She looked closely at him and said, "This man was with him."
⁵⁷ But he denied it. "Woman, I don't know him," he said.

John 18:17-18

¹⁷ "You aren't one of this man's disciples too, are you?" she asked Peter. He replied, "I am not."
¹⁸ It was cold, and the servants and officials stood around a fire they had made to keep warm. Peter also was standing with them, warming himself.

John 18:19-24

¹⁹ Meanwhile, the high priest questioned Jesus about his disciples and his teaching.

²⁰ "I have spoken openly to the world," Jesus replied. "I always taught in synagogues or at the temple, where all the Jews come together. I said nothing in secret. ²¹ Why question me? Ask those who heard me. Surely they know what I said."

²² When Jesus said this, one of the officials nearby slapped him in the face. "Is this the way you answer the high priest?" he demanded.

²³ "If I said something wrong," Jesus replied, "testify as to what is wrong. But if I spoke the truth, why did you strike me?"²⁴ Then Annas sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.

Matthew 26:59-75

⁵⁹ The chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin were looking for false evidence against Jesus so that they could put him to death. ⁶⁰ But they did not find any, though many false witnesses came forward. Finally two came forward ⁶¹ and declared, "This fellow said, 'I am able to destroy the temple of God and rebuild it in three days.'" ⁶² Then the high priest stood up and said to Jesus, "Are you not going to answer? What is this testimony that these men are bringing against you?" ⁶³ But Jesus remained silent. The high priest said to him, "I charge you under oath by the living God: Tell us if you are the Messiah, the Son of God." ⁶⁴ "You have said so," Jesus replied. "But I say to all of you: From now on you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven." ⁶⁵ Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, "He has spoken blasphemy! Why do we need any more witnesses? Look, now you have heard the blasphemy. ⁶⁶ What do you think?" "He is worthy of death," they answered. ⁶⁷ Then they spit in his face and struck him with their fists. Others slapped him ⁶⁸ and said, "Prophecy to us, Messiah. Who hit you?" ⁶⁹ Now Peter was sitting out in the courtyard, and a servant girl came to him. "You also were with Jesus of Galilee," she said. ⁷⁰ But he denied it before them all. "I don't know what you're talking about," he said. ⁷¹ Then he went out to the gateway, where another servant girl saw him and said to the people there, "This fellow was with Jesus of Nazareth." ⁷² He denied it again, with an oath: "I don't know the man!" ⁷³ After a little while, those standing there went up to Peter and said, "Surely you are one of them; your accent gives you away." ⁷⁴ Then he began to call down curses, and he swore to them, "I don't know the man!" Immediately a rooster crowed. ⁷⁵ Then Peter remembered the word Jesus had spoken: "Before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times." And he went outside and wept bitterly.

Mark 14:55-72

⁵⁵ The chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin were looking for evidence against Jesus so that they could put him to death, but they did not find any. ⁵⁶ Many testified falsely against him, but their statements did not agree. ⁵⁷ Then some stood up and gave this false testimony against him: ⁵⁸ "We heard him say, 'I will destroy this temple made with human hands and in three days will build another, not made with hands.'" ⁵⁹ Yet even then their testimony did not agree. ⁶⁰ Then the high priest stood up before them and asked Jesus, "Are you not going to answer? What is this testimony that these men are bringing against you?" ⁶¹ But Jesus remained silent and gave no answer. Again the high priest asked him, "Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?" ⁶² "I am," said Jesus. "And you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven." ⁶³ The high priest tore his clothes. "Why do we need any more witnesses?" he asked. ⁶⁴ "You have heard the blasphemy. What do you think?" They all condemned him as worthy of death. ⁶⁵ Then some began to spit at him; they blindfolded him, struck him with their fists, and said, "Prophecy!" And the guards took him and beat him. ⁶⁶ While Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant girls of the high priest came by. ⁶⁷ When she saw Peter warming himself, she looked closely at him. "You also were with that Nazarene, Jesus," she said. ⁶⁸ But he denied it. "I don't know or understand what you're talking about," he said, and went out into the entryway. ⁶⁹ When the servant girl saw him there, she said again to those standing around, "This fellow is one of them." ⁷⁰ Again he denied it. After a little while, those standing near said to Peter, "Surely you are one of them, for you are a Galilean." ⁷¹ He began to call down curses, and he swore to them, "I don't know this man you're talking about." ⁷² Immediately the rooster crowed the second time. Then Peter remembered the word Jesus had spoken to him: "Before the rooster crows twice you will disown me three times." And he broke down and wept.

Luke 22:58-71

⁵⁸ A little later someone else saw him and said, "You also are one of them." "Man, I am not!" Peter replied. ⁵⁹ About an hour later another asserted, "Certainly this fellow was with him, for he is a Galilean." ⁶⁰ Peter replied, "Man, I don't know what you're talking about!" Just as he was speaking, the rooster crowed. ⁶¹ The Lord turned and looked straight at Peter. Then Peter remembered the word the Lord had spoken to him: "Before the rooster crows today, you will disown me three times." ⁶² And he went outside and wept bitterly. ⁶³ The men who were guarding Jesus began mocking and beating him. ⁶⁴ They blindfolded him and demanded, "Prophecy! Who hit you?" ⁶⁵ And they said many other insulting things to him. ⁶⁶ At daybreak the council of the elders of the people, both the chief priests and the teachers of the law, met together, and Jesus was led before them. ⁶⁷ "If you are the Messiah," they said, "tell us." Jesus answered, "If I tell you, you will not believe me, ⁶⁸ and if I asked you, you would not answer. ⁶⁹ But from now on, the Son of Man will be seated at the right hand of the mighty God." ⁷⁰ They all asked, "Are you then the Son of God?" He replied, "You say that I am." ⁷¹ Then they said, "Why do we need any more testimony? We have heard it from his own lips."

John 18:25-27

²⁵ Meanwhile, Simon Peter was still standing there warming himself. So they asked him, "You aren't one of his disciples too, are you?" He denied it, saying, "I am not." ²⁶ One of the high priest's servants, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, challenged him, "Didn't I see you with him in the garden?" ²⁷ Again Peter denied it, and at that moment a rooster began to crow.

Reconstruction of Events

- 1) Jesus taken to Annas, former high priest and father-in-law of the current high priest. (John)
- 2) Around this time, Peter disowns Jesus the first time. (John; fits well with Luke, too)
- 3) Jesus taken to Caiaphas, current high priest. There, he is questioned, found worthy of death, and beaten. (Matthew, Mark, Luke)
 - This process appears to take the remainder of the night, because the council determines Jesus' guilt at daybreak. (Luke 22:66)
- 4) During Jesus' appearance before Caiaphas, Peter disowns him the second and third times.
 - Luke places Peter's denials before the Caiaphas appearance. Matthew and Mark place them after it. John splits the denials, with one around the time of the appearance before Annas and the other two after Jesus is taken to Caiaphas.
 - Jesus' eye contact with Peter in Luke (22:61) suggests that Peter disowned Jesus the third time while Jesus' appearance before Caiaphas was still in process.

Reconstruction of Peter's Denials (MT Matthew, MK Mark, L Luke, J John)

- Servant Girl of the high priest on duty at the door of the high priest's courtyard* [to others] This man was with him.^L
[to Peter] You also were with that Nazarene, Jesus of Galilee.^{MT+MK} You aren't one of this man's disciples too, are you?^J
- Peter* I am not.^J Woman, I don't know him.^L I don't know or understand what you're talking about.^{MT+MK}
- The same Servant Girl* This fellow is one of them.^{MK}
Another Servant Girl at the gateway This fellow was with Jesus of Nazareth.^{MT}
Someone else—a Man You also are one of them.^L
Those nearby You aren't one of his disciples too, are you?^J
- Peter* Man, I am not!^{L+J} [with an oath] I don't know the man!^{MT}
- [about an hour later]
Another Man Certainly this fellow was with him, for he is a Galilean.^L
Those standing there Surely you are one of them, for you are a Galilean; your accent gives you away.^{MT+MK}
A servant of the high priest & relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off Didn't I see you with him in the garden?^J
- Peter* [calling down curses] Man, I don't know this man you're talking about!^{MT+MK+L}
- [the rooster crows; Jesus turns & looks straight at Peter] [Peter remembers Jesus' words, goes outside, and weeps bitterly.^{MT+MK+L}]