

Lk. 13:22-30 “The Incriminated Christ”

For the Children: Have you ever decided to keep quiet to protect someone else from trouble, only to find that by saying nothing *you* are in trouble yourself? When I was at school, boys would sometimes take punishments another should have received, just so they didn't have to “dob in” a school-mate. Unfortunately, that silence was sometimes dishonest. The Lord Jesus, when He was on trial before the Jewish leaders, had to have the right amount of silence that He would end up taking our punishment on the cross, to protect us from hell; yet without any dishonesty. **Questions:** How did the Lord Jesus let them know that He is God? How did the Lord Jesus let them know that this trial was actually part of God's plan? What is the warning the Lord gives to us here?

Introduction:

First Point: Israel Seeks to Incriminate the Christ

- 1) The Second Hearing: The Jewish legal system involved 2 hearings for crimes worthy of death, separated by at least a day, with no night hearings. The first, which had already taken place during the night, involved hearing witnesses. The second was of the full court. Sin causes a rushed process and much injustice here – as is often the case. The false witnesses have failed to give sound evidence, but the leaders now want the full court to hear Christ condemn Himself
- 2) The First Question: Asking Christ if He is the Messiah is the less dangerous question, for many of the Jews expected merely a political messiah. To this question, the Lord cannot answer “No” – that would be untrue. Answering with another question would not work (Lk. 20:3ff). But a simple “Yes” would be misunderstood. They need to be corrected as to the nature of the Messiah. So the Lord applies Ps. 110:1 to Himself (and Dan. 7:13), showing the true nature of the Messiah as One with Divine power!
- 3) The Second Question: The claim of Divine power throws the court into an uproar (v. 70) and prompts the second and more deadly question – “Are You the Son of God, then?” The logical-word, “then,” shows that they understood Christ to be claiming divinity. Obviously they understood Him to be claiming a unique kind of Sonship. They find the answer blasphemy because it is a claim of Divinity. His answer to the question is clearly affirmative. See also Mt. 26:63-64 on His similar reply in the first hearing
- 4) The Covenant Nation Incriminated: This judgement against Christ was not just by a few leaders of Israel. The full Sanhedrin was gathered and all reacted strongly to His answers. They represented the “people,” the covenant nation. Because of this judgement, the nation was judged and rejected by God

Second Point: The Christ Allows Himself to Be Incriminated

- 1) To Go to the Cross: It was necessary for Christ to be incriminated in this way, so that He would be sent to the cross to die for our sins. See HC, LD 15, Q/A 38. His “silence” – lack of Self-defence – was a part of that plan (Is. 53:7, Acts 8:32). He knew He was going to the cross. Earlier He had evaded arrest. Now was the right time. This was neither a miscalculation nor a “death-wish” – it was the plan of salvation
- 2) To Leave a True Testimony: However, His silence was not total. He corrected the misunderstanding of the Messiah and left testimony to His Divine Nature and power, so men would believe. He made it clear that He would rise in power and be vindicated as a result of the very actions of the Sanhedrin. “From now on” indicates that this trial will trigger His glorification by the Father
- 3) To Show Who's Judge: The declaration of His seat in power at the Father's right hand indicates that Christ is the Judge who will bring judgement against all who have opposed Him. The Sanhedrin and Israel are being warned to repent!
- 4) To Show the Perfect Wisdom: The Lord's answers show the perfect mix of silence and explanation – to take Him to the cross but leave a testimony; to vindicate Him and to leave a warning. His answers must not be ignored. We should be filled with gratitude that He gave these answers for our salvation. And eager to pass on His testimony to others

Conclusion:

