

3rd Station of the Cross - Jesus is condemned by the Sanhedrin



They took Jesus to the high priest, and all the chief priests, the elders and the teachers of the law came together. 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. Many testified falsely against him, but their statements did not agree. 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.’” ⁵⁹Yet even then their testimony did not agree. 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” But Jesus remained silent and gave no answer. Again the high priest asked him, “Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?”² “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. “The high priest tore his clothes. “Why do we need any more witnesses?” he asked. “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. ~ Mark 14:53-65

The Sanhedrin was an assembly of twenty-three to seventy-one men appointed in every city in the Land of Israel. In the Hebrew Bible, Moses and the Israelites were commanded by God to establish courts of judges who were given full authority over the people of Israel, who were commanded by God to obey every word the judges instructed and every law they established.

- What do you think the authorities of the church would say if you proclaimed that you are a child of God?
- What internally prevents you from claiming this truth about yourself?
- What diagnosis do you think would be given to someone claiming this?
- How have you been “put in your place,” if you thought too much of yourself? At a certain stage of development, this is appropriate – which stage and how did it create shame in you?
- Who has falsely testified against you? How did they not see you, hear you, or know you?
- When have you given up in your life with trying to be seen, heard and known?
- Who has treated you as blasphemous when you have spoken your truth?
- Who has mocked you and told you that you think too much of yourself? What stage of development are we talking about here?
- Have you reached a place of clarity where you no longer need to defend, explain, rationalize, justify yourself?
- How were you beaten, literally or figuratively, for being arrogant, too full of yourself, too big for your britches....?
- **How have you repeated this pattern on yourself – how does this dynamic live within you?**
- At what point did you start assessing “the law” for yourself because it did not fit with your understanding of love?
- Is the church within you grew up, a church of love or morality and legality?
- Look at the picture – how have people shaken their finger at you and filled you with shame? It is not mistake that after this picture there is the flagellation – we incorporate this and then do it to ourselves.

"Jesus at the High Priest" (1803) by Spanish painter José de Madrazo y Agudo. Oil on canvas. Madrid, Museo del Prado.