

Jesus: Condemned by Religious Leaders and Denied by Peter

After witnessing Jesus' arrest in the Garden of Gethsemane, we move to the next two Stations of the Cross, the third and fourth. First, we see Jesus before the Sanhedrin, a council of religious leaders who condemned him, and then we join Peter outside in the courtyard where he denies Jesus, not once, not twice, but three times. As we take time during Lent to reflect on the events Jesus endured, we consider how *we* might put Jesus on trial in our own hearts and the ways *we* deny Jesus in our own lives. At the same time, we ask ourselves how these scenes speak into our lives today, and we discover comfort for our own fears and failures.

AWARENESS Before listening reflect on what you already know or understand about topics we'll cover in the episode.

- Have you ever judged something or someone before you had evidence or all the information? What happened as a result?
- How do you think your fears and failures impact your faith?



LISTEN TO THE EPISODE: [Jesus: Condemned by Religious Leaders and Denied by Peter](#)

READ [Luke 22:66-71](#), [Matthew 26:69-75](#),

REFLECTION After listening, consider the following questions:

- After reflecting on the [Luke 22](#) account of Jesus before the Sanhedrin, host Scott Hoezee said, “The third station of the cross invites us to encounter a hard question: When and where have I set myself up as judge over Jesus; over his word; over his claim on my life? When have I already decided against obedience before I even listen?” How do you respond to those questions?
- When has fear taken the driver’s seat in your life? What was the result?
- Where are the courtyards of your life, the places where you might slip into what host Darrell Delaney called “self-preservation mode” and struggle to remain faithful to Christ? How might the fourth station of the cross invite you to identify in yourself that push to deny Jesus as Peter did, and give you the opportunity to draw closer to Christ’s mercy instead?
- In segment 3, Scott identified two ways people can turn away from Christ: 1) resist Jesus with subtle opposition, and 2) stumble under pressure and fear. Scott also noted that most of us have traces of both ways in our own walks of faith. Where have you seen this to be true in your walk?

RELATED PASSAGES for further study

[Matthew 26:57-68](#), [Mark 14:53-72](#), [Luke 22:54-65](#), [John 18:15-27](#), [Matthew 4:1-11](#), [Daniel 7:13-14](#), [1 John 1:8-9](#), [John 21:15-17](#), [Matthew 26:31-35](#)

CONCLUSION

At the end of the episode, Darrell and Scott discussed three lessons we can draw from the third and fourth stations of the cross:

1. Name where you have denied Christ.
2. Move from judging to following Jesus.
3. Trust that Christ's mercy is deeper than your worst moment.

As you reflected on the third and fourth stations of the Cross, how has the Holy Spirit comforted or convicted you? What will you pray for as you close your time of Lenten reflection?

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