

Read Mark 14:53-59

53 They took Jesus to the high priest's home where the leading priests, the elders, and the teachers of religious law had gathered.

54 Meanwhile, Peter followed him at a distance and went right into the high priest's courtyard. There he sat with the guards, warming himself by the fire.

55 Inside, the leading priests and the entire high council were trying to find evidence against Jesus, so they could put him to death. But they couldn't find any.

56 Many false witnesses spoke against him, but they contradicted each other.

57 Finally, some men stood up and gave this false testimony:

58 "We heard him say, 'I will destroy this Temple made with human hands, and in three days I will build another, made without human hands.'"

59 But even then they couldn't get their stories straight!

Where did they take Jesus next (v. 53)? To the high priest's house where all the Jewish religious leaders were gathered.

Where did Peter go (v. 54)? Into the high priest's courtyard. **What's a courtyard?** Like a grassy patio/area right beside the house.

What did he do there? He sat with the guards and warmed himself by the fire.

What were the religious leaders trying to do with Jesus (v. 55)? They put Jesus on trial and were trying to find some evidence to convict Him so they could sentence Him to death.

What were the problems they were running into (vv. 55-56)? They couldn't come up with any evidence. And the people who testified against Jesus couldn't agree on what they heard and saw. Because they were making up false arguments and lies against Jesus.

What was the next evidence they tried to present (vv. 57-58)? A statement that Jesus had made. (Read it).

What was the problem with that evidence (v. 59)? The false witnesses could not agree on that lie either.

What was the temple Jesus was talking about (v. 58)? His body. **The "three days" was a reference to what?** The period of His death and resurrection (John 2:19-21).

Why did these people hate Jesus so much? Their hearts were hard. They needed a new, soft heart which is what we get when we ask Jesus to forgive our sins and surrender our hearts and lives to Him (Ezekiel 36:26).