

The Promise to Plead for our Salvation

Luke 22:62-71

March 8, 2026

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We're praying for people to know that they are sinners. We're praying that family, neighbors, and co-workers will know God loves them and wants to spend eternity with them. We're praying for the opportunity to plant, water, and harvest seeds of Gospel. Our family, neighbors, and co-workers need to know that when Jesus saves them they are given a new life; God is the God of second chances; that we aren't going to smash them over the head with their sins; and Jesus already knows our sin and still loves us. Jesus wants to every person to be saved.

I want you to understand how to help someone who is seeking Jesus to find Him. When Jesus proclaimed His place at the right hand of God He was saying that He will either deny knowing us or proclaim us as one of His brothers and sisters. What we are looking at today is how to use the trial of Jesus before the Sanhedrin as a model for guiding a seeker to a relationship with Jesus.

Luke 22:66–71 (NLT) At daybreak all the elders of the people assembled, including the leading priests and the teachers of religious law. Jesus was led before this high council, and they said, “Tell us, are you the Messiah?” But he replied, “If I tell you, you won’t believe me. And if I ask you a question, you won’t answer. But from now on the Son of Man will be seated in the place of power at God’s right hand.” They all shouted, “So, are you claiming to be the Son of God?” And he replied, “You say that I am.” “Why do we need other witnesses?” they said. “We ourselves heard him say it.”

At the trial of Jesus, He is proclaiming is rightful place in heaven at God’s side. Jesus is approaching the end of His life. His crucifixion is near, within hours. He is standing trial before the Sanhedrin. This is the official governing body of the Jews.

In the middle of the night He was arrested. The temple guards came to the Garden of Gethsemane where Jesus was praying. They came with a crowd that included one of Jesus’ disciples, Judas. When Judas greets Jesus with a kiss, they take Him into custody. Jesus, the temple guards, the crowd, and some of the disciples end up in the courtyard of the High Priest. Here false witnesses are brought to give testimony against Jesus. No one is allowed to defend Jesus. Jesus is berated, attacked verbally, slapped and beaten. Then He looks at Peter as the rooster crows. Peter has denied Jesus three times.

Jesus doesn't speak or defend Himself. He doesn't make any claims about Himself or His ministry. Some might confuse His silence with weakness. Others see His silence as guilt for His alleged crimes.

With the arrival of dawn, the rising of the sun, Jesus can be put on trial before the Sanhedrin. This gathering of scholars, teachers, scribes, priests are finally face to face with Jesus. The Sanhedrin is made of two parties, the Sadducees and the Pharisees. One group trusts only the Law given to Moses. The other group trusts all of what we call the Old Testament. Both groups have contributed to writing their own laws to interpret God's Law.

Jesus is questioned again about His identity and His ministry. There is an attempt to trap Jesus with words that will condemn Him. The air is filled with antagonism and angry. They want to silence Jesus. They want to end His popularity and the movement it has begun. They are fearful of having their sin exposed, their power removed, their authority eliminated.

Jesus refuses to answer their questions if He is the Messiah. The Messiah was predicted to come. The Messiah was God's salvation for His people. The Messiah would set God's people free. The Messiah was to conquer all their enemies. Jesus couldn't answer, would not answer their questions, because He was not the Messiah they expected. Jesus came to save the world from sin. He was not their to defeat their political enemies. Jesus came to seek and save the lost. Jesus was and is the Son of God. His rightful place is at the right hand of God. It is the place of highest honor. God's right hand is God's power. In His rightful place Jesus has all authority.

Is something you can believe? Is Jesus someone you can trust? Are you able to commit to Jesus?

But His words, His proclamation of at being at God's right hand sealed His crucifixion. The religious leaders believed no person could be at God's right hand. Jesus of Nazareth must die.

Psalm 110:1 (NLT) The Lord said to my Lord, "Sit in the place of honor at my right hand until I humble your enemies, making them a footstool under your feet."

People everywhere misunderstand that Jesus has defeated the enemy. Jesus is quoting these words as He is questioned by the Sanhedrin. His life hangs in the balance and He speaks these words of power and authority. They were first uttered by King David. When David spoke these words he saw the double promise of God. First, David was on a mission from God to do the work of God. Second, David sees someone in his own family line carrying out God's mission.

For centuries the Jewish people heard these words as the promise of God to send His Messiah. The Messiah would be at God's right hand. Then all the enemies would be defeated. Jesus even used this passage once before to silence His critics by asking them to declare who was seated at God's right hand, David or the Messiah. Their refusal to answer on that previous occasion determined that they knew He was the Messiah. But they were rejecting Him as the One sent by God.

Until Jesus arrived these words were misunderstand as a conquering king. One who would defeat the enemies of God's people. A king who would lead the military take over of their enemies. The king who would stand up against the armies and crush them in battle. Jesus spoke the truth of this prophecy. These words are about the Messiah defeating God's enemy sin, death, and the devil.

Jesus is the only one to be seated in the place of honor. His miracles of healing were signs of overcoming the power of sin which causes illnesses and affliction. The devil through sin corrupted all of creation. Jesus' miracles of providing food and calming the storms were signs of His power to do what only God can do. When Jesus cast out demons He was demonstrating that He had power over the forces of evil. Then when Jesus raised the widow's son, and He brought back to life the little girl, and when He called Lazarus out of the tomb He made clear that even death had no power over Him. These are works of the Messiah. These are actions of God given to His Anointed One. The religious people who stood in judgment of Him that day rejected all the things that Jesus did.

Jesus is the Messiah. Jesus is the one who will defeat all the enemies of God. Jesus will place under His feet sin in every form. Jesus will crush the devil. Jesus will defeat even death.

From the religious leaders who condemned Jesus at that trial to the sinners we see and interact with today they have misunderstood Jesus. People want a miracle worker. They want someone who will satisfy their every desire. Jesus instead saves all those who believe in Him from their sinful desires. Jesus puts under His feet the desire to sin. Jesus gives us new desires. He gives us thoughts, attitudes, words, actions that bring glory to God. He changes our minds, our hearts, our spirit, our soul from sinful to righteous. He turns us from enemies of God into children of God.

Is something you can believe? Is Jesus someone you can trust? Are you able to commit to Jesus? To Him be the glory forever and ever.

2 Corinthians 5:10 (NLT) For we must all stand before Christ to be judged. We will each receive whatever we deserve for the good or evil we have done in this earthly body.

When we stand before Jesus will you be condemned or will He know you? Jesus was being judge by the religious and found guilty, then condemned to death. They didn't understand that Jesus was ready to die for their sins. They didn't comprehend that by following their human desires they were making the death of Jesus for their sins a necessity. The sin of every person makes the death of Jesus a necessity.

No person can justify their sins. No one can be free from the punishment of their sins by their own actions. Everyone is a sinner. Everyone will pay the penalty for their sin. The only exceptions are those who trust Jesus' death to cover their sin.

When this life ends every person will stand face to face with Jesus awaiting His decision. Once again there are no exceptions. Those who are wealthy and those who are poor will be judged. The good looking and the ugly will be judged. The athletic and the intellectual will be judged. The good and the bad will be judged. The sweethearts and the bullies will be judged. The creative and the narrow minded will be judged. The judgment will be based upon what we have done in this life.

Now, I'm not talking about the merits of our actions. Scripture makes it clear this judgment is solely on the good and evil we have done will we lived our lives. Good is defined as trusting Jesus. Evil is defined as rejecting Jesus. I will be judged on whether or not I trusted Jesus to save me from my sin. You will be judged on whether or not you trusted Jesus to save you from your sin. Everyone person will be judged on whether or not they trusted Jesus to save them from their sin.

The decision you made while living this life will impact His final decision. Jesus doesn't have a clipboard or tablet with a spreadsheet of your good deeds and your bad deeds. He knows every good deed and every bad deed. But, He isn't running done the checklist to see if you have more good deeds than bad deeds. Jesus is looking at you. He is looking into your heart, your spirit, your soul. He determining in an instant, in the blink of an eye, in a flash of light in the sky if He knows you or not. That will be the only thing that matters at your judgment.

Scripture tells us that there is the Lamb's Book of Life. Jesus is the Lamb that died to take away our sins. In Jesus' book are written the names of those who believe in Him. The names of people who have confessed and repented of their sins are the only names written in the Lamb's Book of Life. Jesus knows every person who has called upon Him for salvation of their sins. Jesus will judge them as forgiven.

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Romans 8:34 (NLT) Who then will condemn us? No one—for Christ Jesus died for us and was raised to life for us, and he is sitting in the place of honor at God's right hand, pleading for us.

For all those who trust in Jesus there is no condemnation. You have spent your entire life being judged. You're judged by how you talk, the kind of words you use, the way to speak to others. Judgment comes upon you for how you treat animals, little kids, and your spouse. You are judged by how you interact with God.

In my experience almost all of us know that we are guilty. We know we're guilty of something. Down in our heart, in our spirit, in our soul we know when we've been bad. Whether or not we are ever caught or confronted about being bad we know it. If we forget that we are bad, that we have made mistakes, that we have sinned the Holy Spirit will remind us. The Holy Spirit of God works in every person to convict them of their sin.

The difference between conviction and condemned is significant. When the Holy Spirit convicts He is seeking to help you see that you are a sinner, that you have sinned. Condemned is when you pay the price for the bad things, the sins you have committed. The devil is accusing everyone of us of being guilty. We are guilty. At some point in time we dishonored our parents. We may not be murderers or thieves, but we have looked with jealousy or anger at another person. We may not slander people, but do we talk behind their backs? We may not think we envy other people, but do we want what others have? We may not swear, using filthy language all the time, but do we use God's name inappropriately? We may not bow down to idols chanting their name, but do you worship our possessions or the opinions of others?

The devil accuses all of us over every one of these things. The devil also condemns us to eternity in hell with Him. The Holy Spirit shows us our sin so that we will call upon Jesus to save us. Jesus is standing at the right hand of God. When you face Him, He will either say I know you or I don't know. He will say, "you trusted Me to forgive your sins. You believed in me to make you into a new person, cleansed of your sins."

Jesus was being judge by the religious and found guilty, then condemned to death. No person can justify their sins. No one can be free from the punishment of their sins by their own actions. Everyone is a sinner. Everyone will pay the penalty for their sin. The only exceptions are those who trust Jesus' death to cover their sin. When this life ends every person will stand face to face with Jesus awaiting His decision.

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When you give Jesus your sins, He will take them away. He will forgive you. He will enter into your life. He will guide you every moment of every day. You will be set free from your desires to sin. You will find new purpose and direction in life. You will be filled with hope, peace, joy, and power.

Look into your heart, your spirit, and your soul. Ask Jesus to cleanse you and make you new. In the quiet of the next few minutes talk to Jesus. Then I will pray with you.