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Campbell Chapel Free
Will Baptist Church

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Listen to Jesus

and stay out of the place of temptation

CAMPBELL CHAPEL FWBC - SERMON

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Wednesday, September 16, 2009

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Mark 14:53-72

53 And they led Jesus away to the high priest: and with him were assembled all the chief priests and the elders and the scribes.

54 And Peter followed him afar off, even into the palace of the high priest: and he sat with the servants, and warmed himself at the fire.

55 And the chief priests and all the council sought for witness against Jesus to put him to death; and found none.

56 For many bare false witness against him, but their witness agreed not together.

57 And there arose certain, and bare false witness against him, saying,

58 We heard him say, I will destroy this temple that is made with hands, and within three days I will build another made without hands.

59 But neither so did their witness agree together.

60 And the high priest stood up in the midst, and asked Jesus, saying, Answerest thou nothing? what is it which these witness against thee?

61 But he held his peace, and answered nothing. Again the high priest asked him, and said unto him, Art thou the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?

62 And Jesus said, I am: and ye shall see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven.

63 Then the high priest rent his clothes, and saith, What need we any further witnesses?

64 Ye have heard the blasphemy: what think ye? And they all condemned him to be guilty of death.

65 And some began to spit on him, and to cover his face, and to buffet him, and to say unto him, Prophecy: and the servants did strike him with the palms of their hands.

66 And as Peter was beneath in the palace, there cometh one of the maids of the high priest:

67 And when she saw Peter warming himself, she looked upon him, and said, And thou also wast with Jesus of Nazareth.

68 But he denied, saying, I know not, neither understand I what thou sayest. And he went out into the porch; and the cock crew.

69 And a maid saw him again, and began to say to them that stood by, This is one of them.

70 And he denied it again. And a little after, they that stood by said again to Peter, Surely thou art one of them: for thou art a Galilaean, and thy speech agreeth thereto.

71 But he began to curse and to swear, saying, I know not this man of whom ye speak.

72 And the second time the cock crew. And Peter called to mind the word that Jesus said unto him, Before the cock crow twice, thou shalt deny me thrice. And when he thought thereon, he wept.

Keep in mind; we are getting ready to leave the garden. Jesus has been in the garden of Gethsemane. He's been down here praying. This is where He prayed. The Bible says His sweat became as great drops of blood. This is where the soldiers, the great crowd, 400, 500, 600 people have come and got Him here. They have arrested Him. This is where Peter cut off the servant of the high priest's ear. Jesus put His ear back on his head. We are leaving that now and we are going to the trial here of Jesus Christ, which is about to begin.

Keep in mind, this is on Thursday night. This is probably 12:00 or 1:00 in the morning by now. He is going to die on Friday. These events are happening just hours before He is going to die. Also, as you read the scripture, to put everything together about the trial; it is not easy to do sometimes. The Jewish trial was actually in three different parts. Likewise, the Roman trial was in three parts. There were actually two different trials that He had.

We know here, when you look at the scripture here, in verse 53, that I read to you...

53 And they led Jesus away to the high priest: and with him were assembled all the chief priests and the elders and the scribes.

When you read the whole account, you will find out that they take Jesus first to Annas, who is the father-in-law of Caiaphas. Caiaphas was the high priest during this time, but Annas, since he was father-in-law to Caiaphas; he had been the previous high priest, therefore, he still yet had much influence on what went on. They first took Him to Annas, when you read the context of things here. If you read John 18:13-24; but then they went from there to Caiaphas, which is what we read about here in these scriptures. Finally, early in the morning, as we read Mark chapter 15, then the whole council is gathered together and they are going to condemn Him to die. We will talk about those things as we go just a little bit.

The actual Jewish trial is happening at night and that was illegal when you read about their laws and what they could do or could not do. They were not allowed to have a trial after dark, or of the night. They could not do that. Even though they are arresting Jesus here now and taking Him over to where the Sanhedrin is gathered together, 70 or 71 members of very influential people; we would call them the Supreme Court in America. This is who was assembled together. This is where they have Jesus at now.

They are taking Him at night to try to find some way here to find a way to condemn Him to die. They wanted to get rid of Him. He didn't fit in. He's telling them that He is their Messiah; He's told them these things. He's preached that unto them. He's went into the temple as we read and studied a few weeks or few months ago, when He goes into the temple and overturns the money changers tables and drives out all of them that bought and sold doves, oxen and so forth. That upset them. They did not like that. They wanted to know by what authority that He did this. Do you remember that lesson? Jesus' teaching was really upsetting them.

They wanted to get rid of Him, so this is what they are doing. They have arrested Him in the garden. They have come and got Him now. They have taken Him to Annas' house. What we are reading here now; He's at Caiaphas' Palace.

54 And Peter followed him afar off, even into the palace of the high priest: and he sat with the servants, and warmed himself at the fire.

There should be no doubt in our mind that Peter loved Jesus Christ. There is no doubt in our minds that he loved Him. Not only that, but also there should be no doubt in our minds, as we read the scripture, that Peter understood that Jesus was the Messiah. He confessed that. In Matthew 16; he confessed that, "Thou art the Christ. Thou art the Son of the Living God. Thou art the Christ." Peter believed and no doubt he understood that He was the Christ.

There was some things about Peter's understand that was lacking. In other words, he didn't understand everything. He didn't understand about some things here.

Here he is following Jesus. He is following the multitudes here, the soldiers, as they have come and got Jesus. They are leading Him a mile or a half of mile back into the city, into the Palace. They are going try Him here. They are going to question Him here. The Bible says that Peter is following afar off. There is a reason he is doing that. The Bible says here, Peter goes into the Palace of the high priest. He is warming himself here by the fire with the servants. That tells us a couple of different things. That tells us that no doubt, Peter loved Jesus Christ. He wasn't afraid to die with Him because he was going right into the Palace. He was going into enemy territory, even though he didn't understand some things and shouldn't have been there. He probably shouldn't have been there because when you read the accounts, Jesus was going to die. Jesus had already told him here, just before this that he needed to be watching and praying. The spirit was willing but the flesh was weak. Do you remember that? So Peter should have been praying. Peter probably shouldn't have been here anyway. It was going to get him in trouble.

We get in trouble, sometimes, because we are in a place that we should not be. We get in a place where we should not be.

There was not a thing here that Peter could do for Jesus. They had already arrested Him. They had already come and got Him. Even though Peter didn't understand some things, Peter was in a place here that he shouldn't have been because he was down here with the servants. He's warming himself by the fire. Everything that was being said about Jesus Christ around this fire wasn't good. They were probably mocking Him. They were probably saying all kinds of evil things about Jesus. No doubt, they were talking about Him being crazy, and being a fool. The servants and the common people did not believe that He was the Messiah. They thought He was an imposter. They thought He was just a crack-pot. Even His family thought He was crazy. Therefore, no doubt, the talk around the fire here, where everybody was warming...

Many of you guys, and women too; if you have ever worked on a construction job in the wintertime, many times they would build a fire in a barrel. Most generally, the talk that went on around the fire was not good talk, most times. It was just junk and garbage.

Here Peter is in a place where he probably shouldn't have been anyway, listening to that. It is going to get him in trouble here just a little bit later on.

55 And the chief priests and all the council sought for witness against Jesus to put him to death; and found none.

Here they are; they have assembled. If you look at the word “assembled,” it is a good word. It means that they flocked together, like you would drive something or herd something. They come in a rush. When they understood that they were going to get Jesus; they didn’t have any trouble getting everybody awake and getting them to the trial because they wanted to get rid of Him. If it took midnight or 1:00 at night doing something illegal, they didn’t care. Even though they were religious, they were a bunch of thugs is what they were. They were a bunch of hypocrites. They were a bunch of liars. They didn’t care if they did something illegal.

People who do illegal stuff need to get right with God. I don’t care whatever is illegal; if it is illegal then we need to get right with God. They were doing all kinds of stuff that is not legal. That was just one more they were doing. It was no big deal to them.

The Bible says, there were seeking false witness against Jesus to put Him to death. They were looking for false witnesses. They were looking for somebody that would say a lie or swear a lie about Jesus. They were not looking for the truth. Get that! They were looking for false witnesses. They were looking for someone that would come and swear that Jesus said this or did this; something that was a lie so that they could condemn Him to die.

Now that tells you how crooked these guys were. That tells you the character of these guys. That tells you how corrupt these guys were that they were going out and hunting up witnesses here to lie on Jesus. That should tell you how crooked they were. Lying was not right then and lying is not right today.

It goes on in our court system today. It goes on a lot in a lot of places. However, lying is never right. You can’t lie, I don’t care what it is; you need to tell the truth. I don’t care what it is. If it takes the hide off of me or off of you, if it kills grandma, or grandpa; we have to be truthful. If we are going to be truthful then God will take care of us and God will defend us. However, when we are not truthful then we just open ourselves up to all kinds of garbage and stuff that comes.

They sought witnesses against Jesus to put Him to death.

55 And the chief priests and all the council sought for witness against Jesus to put him to death; and found none.

We will read about the false witnesses here in the next verse.

56 For many bare false witness against him, but their witness agreed not together.

They found a whole bunch of witnesses. They got them all together. The reason that this is significant is if you read the book of Deuteronomy, even under their own law, they had to have at least two witnesses to be able to testify against someone to be able to put them to death. One couldn’t do that, but if they had two eyewitnesses that could swear to something then they could legally be able to put someone to death.

Here they had their false witnesses. They were saying all kinds of different things, but even their false witnesses could not even agree on what Jesus supposedly had done.

Jesus gets blamed for a lot of things today that He does not have one thing to do with. All you have to do is turn on your TV set. Do you know what you'll hear? Sometimes you hear some crackpot saying Jesus told me to rob a bank, kill my kids, or steal somebody's car. Jesus may be getting credit for it, but He had nothing to do with it. There are many people saying a lot of things that Jesus is leading them to do, or God is doing in them or through them; if it is contrary to what He has already said in His word then they are liars.

57 And there arose certain, and bare false witness against him, saying,

58 We heard him say, I will destroy this temple that is made with hands, and within three days I will build another made without hands.

Look what it says there.

57 And there arose certain, and bare false witness against him, saying,

What they are going to say down here in verse 58 says:

58 We heard him say, I will destroy this temple that is made with hands, and within three days I will build another made without hands.

Jesus did say part of that. If you John 2:19 Jesus did say, but He was talking to the nation; He says, destroy this body... What He was telling them that you're going to destroy this body, but in three days I will raise it up. What they were saying here is they were looking around at the temple. If you read the other accounts, do you know what you will find out? They said, it took us four to six years to build it and He is going to raise it in three days? He wasn't talking about that temple. He was talking about the temple of His body. He says, "You guys will destroy it." You guys will tear it down in three days, but I'm going to raise it back up. He did not say that He was going to destroy the temple. He did not say that at all. He said, "You guys will destroy the temple, I'll raise it up in three days." He gets accused of a lot of things that He did not say. Jesus Christ is the most misunderstood and the most misquoted individual that ever lived. He really is because a lot of things that people say that He said; He didn't say. I have heard people say things that He did, that He didn't do. This is just another one of them. They were saying that He was going to destroy the temple. He didn't say that. He said, you guys are going to destroy my body or this temple, but in three days I will raise it up. We know that He did that. Don't we? We know that they put Him on a tree, but we know that on Sunday morning He came out victorious. They got things all misunderstood.

59 But neither so did their witness agree together.

In other words, even though they got someone to say something similar to what Jesus said; they couldn't even agree on it. As much as they have heard Him preach, and as many things that they have seen Him do—they followed Him everywhere He went. They were a bunch of these folks that followed

Him everywhere He went to try to trap Him and to try to find something to get Him in trouble. However, of all the tree years of ministry that He has done, of all the people 's lives that He has touched, of all the places that He went, preached and taught and all that He had done they could not find one thing that two people could agree on that was worthy of death. Do you know why? It was because it wasn't there. It wasn't there because He did not do anything like that. We understand that. All the things they saw Him do, all the things they, no doubt, had eye witnessed; they couldn't agree on anything. That tells you what kind of people that Jesus was dealing with here. These were religious people now. They went to synagogue every week. They knew the first five books of Moses real well. However, they were corrupt.

Jesus looked at them and said, "You are white as sepulchers. Outwardly, you look pretty, but on the inside you are full of dead men's bones." Do you remember that? That's what Jesus told them. "You are a bunch of hypocrites. You are a bunch of snakes." They sure didn't like that.

People don't like to be called a snake. If you want to make somebody upset, just call them a snake. That would get them upset.

60 And the high priest stood up in the midst, and asked Jesus, saying, Answerest thou nothing? what is it which these witness against thee?

61 But he held his peace, and answered nothing. Again the high priest asked him, and said unto him, Art thou the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?

In other words, what they are asking Him, "Are you the Messiah? Are you the Son of God?" That's what the word "blessed" means here. They are talking about God the Father.

62 And Jesus said, I am: and ye shall see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven.

That got their attention. I promise you, when He said that, "Are you really the Messiah?" Jesus said, "I Am." He didn't deny it. He told them all kinds of different times. He sat in the temple, preached and taught unto them, but they didn't hear Him. He said, "I Am."

62 And Jesus said, I am: and ye shall see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven.

The Bible says that every eye shall see Him, even those that pierced Him in Revelation 1. Caiaphas is one day, going to understand the guy that stood in His Palace, the guy that he humiliated, the guy that he allowed to be slapped and spit in the face; Caiaphas is going to understand that He is the Son of Almighty God. He is going to see Him. He is going to stand face to face with Him one day. Then the shoe is going to be on the other foot. Caiaphas is not going to be able to condemn Him to die then. Caiaphas is not going to be able to order his servants then to slap and spit in His face and pull out His hair. He is going to see Him sitting on the right hand side of power. He is going to see that one day. Not only that, but also, this world is going to see Him coming in the clouds of heaven one day.

63 Then the high priest rent his clothes, and saith, What need we any further witnesses?

When Jesus says, “I Am, the Son of God. I Am the Messiah.” Do you know what Caiaphas did? Caiaphas no doubt, went into a rage. He ripped his clothes. That’s a sign a disgust, anger, or being mad. He rent his clothes and said, “What do we need of any other witnesses? You heard Him say that He was the Son of God. He has blasphemed. He’s worthy of death. If He’s claiming to be God then He’s worthy of death and we have all that we need.” You see?

Isn’t it something how blind some people can be to the truth? This was the creator of heaven and earth and everything that is here. Pilate was standing right in His presence. However, he didn’t recognize Him. He wouldn’t believe Him. He didn’t accept Him. We have all kinds of people today watching and seeing what God is doing in a world all around them, but they won’t accept Him. They won’t believe Him. They won’t confess that He is the Son of God. They won’t do that. Again, there is a day coming.

64 Ye have heard the blasphemy: what think ye? And they all condemned him to be guilty of death.

Because Jesus said He was the Messiah, they all—the whole council, all 70 or 71 that was there—they all said that He needs to die.

In our Christian walk today...when you and I will let people know who that we stand for, who that we are worshiping, and who that our Savior is; they may not necessarily kill us...but most of them—your family and my family—will try to assassinate your character. They will try to kill you. They will try to get rid of you. Do you know why? They don’t want us around. They really don’t want us around.

Now if you are living a life that the Spirit of God is foreign to you, you pray but you don’t ever get a prayer answered. If God never comes down and meets with you where you can feel His presence that draws you very close and very near; then your life is not going to mean anything to anyone. Your family and your co-workers are not going to persecute you.

However, you take someone that is living in the Will of God, where the light of the glorious gospel of Jesus Christ is shining forth out of them; I promise you there is going to be people who are not going to like you. There is going to be people who are going to do their best to assassinate you and get rid of you. You might say, “That won’t happen to me. I’m too good of a person.”

They did it to Jesus. You are no greater than He is. That’s a lesson that we need to learn sometimes.

I learned that a long time ago. I had some friends that were unsaved friends who are still yet friends, but I don’t see them much. I talk to them once or twice a year. When push comes to shove; your unsaved friends and family will take sides real quick and it won’t be with you.

That’s okay.

They condemned Jesus to die.

65 And some began to spit on him, and to cover his face, and to buffet him, and to say unto him, Prophecy: and the servants did strike him with the palms of their hands.

Now I want you to understand something. They just weren't slapping around on Him; they were beating on Him. Could you imagine?

There have been a lot of people in my life that have done me wrong. There have been a lot of people in life that have done all kinds of horrible things towards me and my family. There have been times that I have wanted to grab hold of them...but I never did get to the place that I was actually disgusted enough with someone that I wanted to spit in their face.

When they were looking at Jesus here they were thinking "This guy is a complete idiot here." They were disgusted with Him. They were simply appalled with Him that He would say that He was the Son of Almighty God. They walked by and spit in His face. They slapped Him. They covered His head and slapped Him in the face and said, "Prophecy to us. Tell us who it is that is hitting you." That should have been you and that should have been me. He had not done anything worthy of this; not one thing. He's there because of my sin. He was there because of your sin. That is what He was doing.

66 And as Peter was beneath in the palace, there cometh one of the maids of the high priest:

Now, again had not Peter—if Peter would have been doing what Jesus told him to do, he would not have been here at the Palace. He would not have been here in a place of temptation. He would not have been there. He would have been watching. He would have been praying. He would have been somewhere else other than where he was at. Peter didn't understand some things.

Peter had pulled out his sword in the garden. He wanted to fight for Jesus. Jesus said, "Put up your sword." Jesus didn't want him to fight. Peter didn't understand that. Peter knew that Jesus was the Messiah. Peter understood that, but now Jesus was being arrested. Peter didn't understand that. There is a lot of confusion, a lot of things in Peter's life, a lot of fear; but Peter should have been listening and obeying what Jesus told him to do. That was to watch and to pray. He didn't do that.

The Bible says here that he is beneath in the Palace. He's here warming himself with the servants. He is standing by the fire.

66 And as Peter was beneath in the palace, there cometh one of the maids of the high priest:

67 And when she saw Peter warming himself, she looked upon him, and said, And thou also wast with Jesus of Nazareth.

68 But he denied, saying, I know not, neither understand I what thou sayest. And he went out into the porch; and the cock crew.

Peter is in a place that he shouldn't have been. He's around people that he shouldn't have been around. He's standing there listening to all kinds of negative stuff and all kinds of garbage that he listening to.

I don't care where you are at or what situation you are in. We don't need to sit around all the time and listen to people who are negative. Some of the most negative people I know go to church. We don't

need to listen to negative people. We need to look at both sides of things. There are so many people who talk about only negative things. There is nothing positive in their life. Their whole life is negative.

Peter is hearing all this stuff here and it is going to get him in trouble. The little maid comes out and says you are one of them. The Bible says that Peter denied it. Had not Peter been here, he would not have denied it. Had not Peter been here this temptation would not have come.

69 And a maid saw him again, and began to say to them that stood by, This is one of them.

70 And he denied it again. And a little after, they that stood by said again to Peter, Surely thou art one of them: for thou art a Galilaean, and thy speech agreeth thereto.

71 But he began to curse and to swear, saying, I know not this man of whom ye speak.

72 And the second time the cock crew. And Peter called to mind the word that Jesus said unto him, Before the cock crow twice, thou shalt deny me thrice. And when he thought thereon, he wept.

Do you know what Jesus knows? He knows what He is doing. Not only does He know what He is doing, but also He knows what I am going to do and He knows what you are going to do. Peter denies the Lord three times. Do you know the thing here that got Peter's attention? He denies Him three times and just as soon as he denies Him the third time; do you know what he hears? He hears the rooster crowing. That is just like someone turning on a light in his brain. Then he remembered the words that Jesus said.

72 And the second time the cock crew. And Peter called to mind the word that Jesus said unto him, Before the cock crow twice, thou shalt deny me thrice. And when he thought thereon, he wept.

That is exactly what Peter did. When he heard/remembered the Words of Jesus, those words convicted him. That touched his heart. Do you know what the Bible says here? He wept. That touched his heart. As we read the whole story we know that Peter and Jesus is going to have a meeting here after Jesus arises from the dead and they get some things worked out here. Peter repents and they get some things worked out here.

In my life and in your life, if we will just listen to the voice of Almighty God, we wouldn't be in a place of temptation sometimes. We wouldn't be in a place where we could get ourselves in a mess.

If Peter would have listened, he wouldn't have been there either.

Which side are you on? Are you serving Jesus Christ? Are you living for Him? Is He the Lord of your life? Is He your Savior? Or are you just living for self. Are you living in your sin, just doing what you want to do? I'm not asking if you are a member of this church. I'm asking you; are you on Jesus' side? Are you living for Him? Have you been born again? That's the question that I am asking you tonight.

If you don't know that tonight, I would plead with you that you come and make things right with the Lord. You may not be here. You may be in your own home tonight. You may be in the car going down the road. You may be in a hospital room somewhere. You may be in a nursing home somewhere. Find you a safe place to pray and ask Jesus Christ to come into your life tonight, to forgive you of your sin. He is

the answer. He is the only way that we are going to be able to get to heaven. He is not one of many ways. He is the only way. As we sing tonight, let's make things right with Him tonight.

Come—