

HOW CAN WE KEEP FROM SPIRITUALLY FAILING WHEN WE ENCOUNTER DIFFICULTY FOR FOLLOWING JESUS?

Matthew 26:57-75

- I. AN OVERVIEW OF THE TRIALS OF JESUS FROM THE GOSPELS

- II. A CONTRAST in context THAT HELPS US UNDERSTAND MATTHEW'S INTENT: He is continuing to instruct us based on Jesus' and Peter's examples (57-58)

- III. LEARN FROM JESUS' RIGHTEOUS RESPONSE TO THOSE WHO DESIRE TO TRAP AND KILL HIM (59-68, 1 Peter 2)
 - A. LEARN FROM JESUS' RESPONSE TO THOSE WHO USED FALSE ACCUSATIONS TO ENTRAP HIM: Jesus doesn't respond to the patently false accusations and inconsistent testimonies but entrusts Himself to the one who judges righteously, so as to accomplish His revealed will (59-63a)

 - B. LEARN FROM HOW JESUS RESPONDS TO VERBAL INTIMIDATION: Under oath, Jesus in response affirms He is God and the Christ (63b-65)

 - C. LEARN FROM HOW JESUS RESPONDS TO PHYSICAL ABUSE: The counsel thus condemns Him to death for blasphemy and then abuses Him (66-68)

- IV. IN CONTRAST, LEARN FROM PETER'S FAILURE, AS HE DENIES JESUS THREE TIMES (69-75)