

The Unjust Trial of Jesus

Matthew 26:57-68

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Shepherd's Community Church

Conspiracy (26:57-59)

(Isaiah 30:18; Psalm 33:5; Deuteronomy 16:18-20; John 18:13-24; 2:14-16; Matthew 21:12-13; Acts 23:1-5)

Confrontation (26:62-64)

(Mark 14:56-58; John 2:19; 8:46; Isaiah 53:7; Psalm 110:1; Daniel 7:13; Leviticus 24:10)

Condemnation (26:65-68)

(Luke 22:64; Exodus 19:21; Leviticus 10:1-2; 2 Samuel 6:6-7; 1 Peter 2:21-23)

The Perspective of Faith

*Workman of God, O, lose not heart, but learn what God is like,
And in the darkest battlefield thou shalt know where to strike.*

*Thrice blest is he to whom is given the instinct that can tell
That God is on the field when he is most invisible.*

*He hides himself so wondrously as though there was no God
He is least seen when all the powers of ill are most abroad*

*Ab! God is other than we think, His ways are far above
Far beyond reason's height, and reached only by childlike love.*

*Then learn to scorn the praise of men, and learn to lose with God.
For Jesus won the world through shame, and beckons thee His road.*

*For right is right, since God is God, and right the day must win.
To doubt would be disloyalty, to falter would be sin.*

Frederick W. Faber, 1814-1863

PRAYER O my Lord, life in the gospel follows the way of the cross. It entails conflict. Inevitably it must, not because I want it so but because the world I live in has surrendered to your enemy and embraced his demonic values. I am often opposed, Lord, not in the fire or on the rack but in assaults and tortures almost invisible to everyone but the one targeted. But you understand my anguish, for you yourself endured suffering at the hands of evil men. And you did not retaliate. Their shrieking hatred was met by your gracious dignity. You did not even open your mouth. Lord, you lost.

And yet you won, for you stuck to what was right and kept entrusting your case to God. And will not the Judge of all the earth do right? I would rather lose with you, dear Lord, than win with the world. Let them have their nasty little victories. But, my Lord, in your mercy enable me to keep trusting you enough to walk strictly in your ways, even when it costs my earthly possessions, privileges and comforts. I want a conquest this world can neither give to me nor steal from me. Let me overcome evil with good. Let me never lash out, as if I had no heavenly Defender standing up for me. Let me lose now, if I have to, so that I may hear your "Well done" then. In your holy name, Amen.

Raymond Ortlund, Jr., *A Passion for God*, 170-2