



LESSON 152 - MARK 14:53-59

And they led Jesus away to the high priest: and with him were assembled all the chief priests and the elders and the scribes. 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. And the chief priests and all the council sought for witness against Jesus to put him to death; and found none. For many bare false witness against him, but their witness agreed not together. And there arose certain, and bare false witness against him, saying, '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.' But neither so did their witness agree together

This second trial involved Caiaphas and some others of the Sanhedrin, the Jewish governing body made up of chief priests, scribes, and elders. (Mt 26:57-68) Note they are looking for any way to judge Jesus guilty of crimes worthy of death. They wanted to eliminate His influence and leadership, because they said, "What should we do? for this Man does many miracles. If we let Him thus alone, all will believe on Him: and the Romans shall come and take away both our place and nation." (Jn 11:47-48) They were supposed to lead the people to the Messiah, but they had no desire for truth or justice. They just wanted to protect their powerful position. They, who were appointed to uphold the law of God and protect the innocent, hunted for witnesses to testify against Jesus, but couldn't find any whose stories agreed. Psalm 35:11-12: "False witnesses did rise up; they laid to my charge things that I knew not. They rewarded me evil for good to the spoiling (bereavement) of my soul. " Witnessing falsely was a direct violation of the Ten Commandments. Exodus 20:16: "Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor." Ex. 23:1: "Thou shalt not raise a false report: put not thine hand with the wicked to be an unrighteous witness."

In Jewish courts, when it was determined that false information had knowingly been given with the intent to deceive, the false witness was sentenced to receive the same punishment that the other person would have received had he been found guilty. Deut 19:16-19: "If a false witness rise up against any man to testify against him that which is wrong; Then both the men, between whom the controversy is, shall stand before the LORD, before the priests and the judges, which shall be in those days; And the judges shall make diligent inquisition: and, **behold, if the witness be a false witness, and hath testified falsely against his brother**; Then shall ye do unto him, as he had thought to have done unto his brother: so shalt thou put the evil away from among you. And those which remain shall hear, and fear, and shall henceforth commit no more any such evil among you." Note: this is one of several places in the Bible that speaks to punishment for a crime being a deterrent to future crimes by others. Giving false witness against someone is an abomination to the LORD. Proverbs 6:16-19: "These six things doth the LORD hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him: A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, **a false witness that speaketh lies**, and he that soweth discord among brethren." Prov 19:9: "A false witness shall not be unpunished, and he that speaketh lies shall not escape." What judgment these

leaders brought upon themselves by their wickedness!

This lesson reminds us it is very important to speak truth, not to engage in gossip, spreading rumors, or saying anything that might come under the heading of false witness. As long as we are in the world, we are to be lights of the world. Jn 9:4-5, Mt 5:14

[Back](#)

[Home](#) | [About Me](#) | [Contact](#) | [Book Reviews](#) | [Book Excerpts](#) | [Illustrator](#) | [Links](#) | [Bible Study-Mark](#) | [Book Orders](#)

Copyright © 2008 LambTalk - All rights reserved.