

For Reflection:

Jesus is on trial in Caiaphas' kangaroo court. The drama is building. Jesus won't say anything to defend himself. Commentator, Matthew Henry, says Jesus says a lot by saying nothing. Jesus is patient in his suffering. He will not return insult for insult (see 1 Ptr 2:23). Jesus is prudent. A defense would only make matters worse since the officials were not after the truth to begin with.

The chief priest seems frustrated with Jesus' silence. In the past, Jesus had been eloquent. He had masterfully answered more intelligent questions that were meant to trap or stump him. "Where are all your smart answers now?" Caiaphas seems to taunt.

Caiaphas exacerbates the situation. If Jesus won't bring the matter up, then Caiaphas will. "Are you the Messiah, Son of the Blessed One?" he demands rather than asks. To this important point, Jesus breaks his silence and replies in essence, "I am," (and we hear allusions to the question Moses asked about whom he should say sent him to deliver the Hebrews from bondage, Ex 3:14). "And the next time you see me," Jesus adds, "I'll be the one doing the judging."

Today's Scripture:

Then the high priest stood up before them and asked Jesus, "Are you not going to answer? What is this testimony that these men are bringing against you?" But Jesus remained silent and gave no answer.

Again, the high priest asked him, “Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?”

“I am,” said Jesus. “And you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven” (Mark 14:60-62 NIV).

Question to Ponder:

What things cause you to get angry, upset, out of sorts? How do you react/respond to such incidents? What lessons can you take from Jesus' actions in the throes of difficulty?

Prayer:

Patient, Prudent God, help me to recognize negative emotions as a calling to look to you for wisdom and response, rather than allowing my feelings to rule my actions. Amen.

Practice: The Prayer of Examen

Examen is the practice of discerning the voice and activity of God within the flow of the day. At the end of the day, come into the Lord's presence asking two questions:

- When today did I have the deepest sense of connection with God, others, myself?
- When today did I have the least sense of connection? (adapted from *The Spiritual Discipline Handbook*, Adele Ahlberg Calhoun/Examen)