

## For Reflection:

Let's list the atrocities against Jesus one more time, not to be emphatic about it or anything.

The so called "trial" is held at Caiaphas' house—not a court room, not even the temple, so this is not a public hearing. The charges are bogus. Even if Jesus is not who he claims to be then he may be mentally ill or at worst a flimflam man (which may merit some legal ramifications, but a death sentence?!). Then, to make matters more heinous, the temple elite horrifically beat Jesus. This isn't common courtroom procedures today, it wasn't in ancient times, and it most certainly went against Jewish law code. In fact, it went against EVERYTHING known to be righteous.

Meanwhile, on the lower floor of Caiaphas' home another "trial" is going on. Peter has been charged by a servant girl as being associated with "that Nazarene, Jesus." Peter was there because he loved Jesus, but he was also afraid to be identified and apprehended. He was afraid for his life. When Peter is identified, he steps out of the limelight, but he still cannot make himself abandon Jesus. Peter enters his "not guilty" plea using a legal phrase, "a denial formula common in rabbinical law." (Asbury Commentary on 14:53-72). Peter doesn't have the rock-solid stamina that Jesus has. Do we wonder why?

## **Today's Scripture:**

*While Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant girls of the high priest came by. When she saw Peter warming himself, she looked closely at him.*

*“You also were with that Nazarene, Jesus,” she said, but he denied it. “I don’t know or understand what you’re talking about,” he said, and went out into the entryway. (Mark 14:66-68 NIV).*

## **Question to Ponder:**

Take some time to wander back through the text of Mark. How many times and ways did Jesus try to tell the disciples to in essence “watch and pray”?

## **Prayer:**

Jesus, I may have some extra time in the next few days. I would like to share it with you. Lead me in the way of true fellowship with you. Amen.

## **Practice: The Prayer of Recollection**

To rest in God is to allow God to calm and heal your fragmented and distracted self.

Intentionally come into the presence of God. Thank Jesus for being present with you. Ask Jesus to gather up the distracting thoughts so you can focus on his love and rest in his presence. If there are things you feel you need to confess or ask of him, do so, and then go back to quiet rest.

(Adapted from *The Spiritual Discipline Handbook*, Adele Ahlberg Calhoun/The Prayer of Recollection)

