

Sermon Outline
“Affirming the Truth”
Matthew 26:57-68

I. The narrative flow

- The arrest vv. 57-58
- The hearing before Caiaphas vv. 59-68
 - Procuring false witnesses v. 59
 - Failure of the witnesses v. 60a
 - Two acceptable witnesses v. 60b-62
 - Jesus’ silence v. 63a
 - The oath & Jesus response vv. 63b-64
 - The condemnation vv. 65-66
 - The abuse vv. 67-68

II. The accusations vv. 59-63a

- The Council predetermines the case v. 59
- Their inability to secure justification v. 60a
- Two witnesses finally agree v. 60b-62
 - Note specific content: “I can . . .” (*cf.* Jn 2:19-21; Mk 14:59)
 - Jesus’ silence in reply v. 63a (*cf.* Is 53:7)

III. Jesus under oath v. 63b-64

- The prerogative of the High Priest “I adjure you . . .”
- Jesus’ simple reply *cf.* Mk 14:62 (but see Mt 26:25)
- Jesus’ expanded reply
 - Ps 110:1 “at God’s right hand”
 - Dan 7:13 (and 14) “in the clouds of heaven”
- Caiaphas’ response – tearing his clothes (*see* Lev 10:6; 21:10)
 - The Aaronic Priesthood seen to be destitute
 - Now to be replaced by Melchizedek (Ps 110:4; Heb 5)

IV. Learning from Jesus

- There is a time to speak and a time to remain silent.
- When we speak, remain focused on Kingdom goals.
- Let our speech be seasoned with salt and filled with veracity.
 - Col 4:6; Is 50:4; 51:16