

**Introduction**

The Resurrection is the foundation of our faith. We should never forget that, yet sometimes as we approach our celebration of the resurrection, we rush through the events that led to the cross. This week we took an indepth look at the trails and denials of Jesus on the journey to the cross.

**Discussion Questions**

1. Have you ever been falsely accused of something? What was that experience like?
2. Read Matthew 26:57-61. What did Jesus mean when He said, "I am able to destroy the temple of God and rebuild it in 3 days?" How do you think that sounded to his accusers?
3. Read Matt 26:62-66. Do you think the crowd was surprised by Jesus's response to the accusations? Why or why not?
4. Caiaphas was the High Priest that Jesus was brought to. He would have been very familiar with the old testament prophecies about the Messiah. How could he have failed to recognize Jesus as the Messiah?
5. If Jesus wasn't what Caiaphas was expecting in the messiah, what do you think he expected? We have our own expectations of what Jesus should do and they don't always line up with reality. What unmet expectations of Jesus have you experienced?
6. Read Matt 26:67-75. Jesus told Peter that he would deny him 3 times. Do you think Peter believed Jesus? If Peter was called "the rock," why would he deny Jesus?
7. When Peter pulled out his sword in the garden of Gethsemane, he showed that he was ready to fight for Jesus. Peter thought Jesus was going to walk a road of triumph and victory. Instead, Jesus chose a path of suffering that Peter wasn't ready for. Are you willing to follow Jesus down a path of suffering?

**Shaping Your Mind –** ...“From now on you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven.” Matthew 26:64b

**Moving Forward –** Jesus was the long awaited for Messiah- the promised deliverer of the jewish nation. He wasn't what the people had expected though. They had expected a victorious king that would rage war and conquer. Jesus isn't always what we expect either. We need follow Jesus down the path that He chose even when it differs from our own expectations.