

Mark 14:53

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they led Jesus away to the high priest: and with him were assembled all the chief priests and the elders and the scribes.

Analysis

And they led Jesus away to the high priest (ἀπήγαγον τὸν Ἰησοῦν πρὸς τὸν ἀρχιερέα, apēgagon ton Iēsoun pros ton archierea)—The verb ἀπάγω (apagō) means 'to lead away,' often used of prisoners led to execution. Jesus is brought before Caiaphas, though John's Gospel clarifies He first appeared before Annas (John 18:13). **All the chief priests and the elders and the scribes** constituted the Sanhedrin, the supreme Jewish council of 70-71 members.

Mark emphasizes the full assembly—this was no hasty midnight kangaroo court but the entire religious establishment united against Christ. The threefold designation (chief priests, elders, scribes) represents the complete religious, civic, and legal authority of Judaism. What Adam lost in a garden, Christ would reclaim through obedience in another garden, now facing the concentrated opposition of fallen religious power.

Historical Context

The Sanhedrin normally met in the Chamber of Hewn Stone on the Temple Mount, but night sessions there were illegal under Jewish law. This gathering likely occurred at Caiaphas's palace. The high priest Caiaphas (AD 18-36) was appointed by Rome and served at their pleasure, making him politically compromised. His father-in-law Annas, though deposed, still wielded enormous influence.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. Why does Mark emphasize that the entire religious establishment assembled against Jesus?
2. How does Jesus's silence before illegally-constituted religious authority inform Christian response to corrupt institutions?
3. What does the full assembly of the Sanhedrin reveal about the depth of religious opposition to Christ's claims?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	ἀπήγαγον	τὸν	Ἰησοῦν	πρὸς	τὸν	ἀρχιερεῖς	καὶ
And G2532	away G520	G3588	Jesus G2424	to G4314	G3588	the chief priests G749	And G2532
συνέρχονται	αὐτῷ	πάντες	οἱ	ἀρχιερεῖς	καὶ	οἱ	
were assembled G4905	with him G846	all G3956	G3588	the chief priests G749	And G2532	G3588	
πρεσβύτεροι	καὶ	οἱ	γραμματεῖς				
the elders G4245	And G2532	G3588	the scribes G1122				