

Mark 14:60

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the high priest stood up in the midst, and asked Jesus, saying, Answerest thou nothing? what is it which these witness against thee?

Analysis

And the high priest stood up in the midst (ἀναστὰς ὁ ἀρχιερεὺς εἰς μέσον, anastas ho archiereus eis meson)—Caiaphas rises to center stage, his standing conveying authority and frustration. The phrase εἰς μέσον (eis meson, 'into the middle') suggests he moved from his seat to confront Jesus directly, breaking normal judicial protocol. **Answerest thou nothing?** (οὐκ ἀποκρίνῃ οὐδέν; ouk apokrinē ouden?)—The double negative (οὐκ...οὐδέν, ouk...ouden) intensifies the question: 'You're not answering anything at all?'

What is it which these witness against thee? (τί οὗτοί σου καταμαρτυροῦσιν; ti houtoi sou katamartyrousin?)—The compound verb καταμαρτυρέω (katamartyreō) means to testify against. Caiaphas's exasperation shows—the testimonies have failed, so he attempts to goad Jesus into self-incrimination. Jesus's silence fulfills Isaiah 53:7: 'he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth.'

Historical Context

Jewish legal tradition generally protected the accused from self-incrimination. Caiaphas's direct questioning violated the principle that judges should rely on witnesses, not interrogate defendants. However, the office of high priest carried enormous authority—he alone entered the Holy of Holies on Yom Kippur and

pronounced God's name. His standing and direct questioning were meant to intimidate Jesus into responding.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. Why did Jesus remain silent before false accusations but later speak when asked about His identity?
2. How does Jesus's silence fulfill Isaiah's prophecy of the suffering servant?
3. What does Caiaphas's frustration reveal about the power of righteous silence in the face of injustice?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	ἀναστὰς	ό	ἀρχιερεὺς	εἰς	τὸ	μέσον	ἐπηρώτησεν
And	stood up		the high priest	in		the midst	and asked
G2532	G450		G749	G1519		G3319	G1905
τὸν	Ἰησοῦν	λέγων,	Οὐκ	ἀποκρίνη	οὐδέν	τί	
G3588	Jesus	saying	Answerest	thou	nothing	what	
	G2424	G3004	G3756	G611	G3762	G5101	
οὗτοί		σου	καταμαρτυροῦσιν				
is it which these	against thee		witness				
G3778		G4675	G2649				

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