

# Matthew 27:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And when he was accused of the chief priests and elders, he answered nothing.

## Analysis

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**And when he was accused of the chief priests and elders, he answered nothing** (κατηγορεῖτο... οὐδὲν ἀπεκρίνατο)—Jesus's silence fulfilled Isaiah 53:7: 'as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth.' The Greek kategoreo (to accuse) is legal terminology; Christ faced formal prosecution.

This was not passive weakness but sovereign self-control. Jesus had defended Himself before the Sanhedrin (Matthew 26:64); His silence before Pilate demonstrated He went to the cross willingly, not as a victim but as the appointed sacrifice who 'gave himself' (Galatians 1:4).

## Historical Context

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Roman legal procedure allowed the accused to defend themselves (defensio). Silence was unusual and typically interpreted as guilt, yet Pilate found no fault. The chief priests needed Roman execution since they lacked authority under occupation.

## Related Passages

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**1 John 4:8** — God is love

**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

## Study Questions

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1. When have you felt called to remain silent in the face of false accusations, trusting God's vindication?
2. How does Jesus's voluntary silence contrast with our tendency to self-justify and defend our reputation?

## Interlinear Text

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καὶ ἐν τῷ κατηγορεῖσθαι αὐτὸν ὑπὸ τῶν ἀρχιερέων  
And when he was accused of the chief priests  
G2532 G1722 G3588 G2723 G846 G5259 G3588 G749

καὶ τῶν πρεσβυτέρων οὐδὲν ἀπεκρίνατο  
And elders nothing he answered  
G2532 G4245 G3762 G611

## Additional Cross-References

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**Matthew 26:63** (Parallel theme): But Jesus held his peace. And the high priest answered and said unto him, I adjure thee by the living God, that thou tell us whether thou be the Christ, the Son of God.

**Isaiah 53:7** (Parallel theme): He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth.