

For Further Study



Read and meditate on the passage below:

66 *At daybreak the council of the elders of the people, both the chief priests*
and the teachers of the law, met together, and Jesus was led before them. 67
"If you are the Messiah," they said, "tell us."
Jesus answered, "If I tell you, you will not believe me, 68 *and if I asked you,*
you would not answer. 69 *But from now on, the Son of Man will be seated at*
the right hand of the mighty God."
70 *They all asked, "Are you then the Son of God?"*
He replied, "You say that I am."
71 *Then they said, "Why do we need any more testimony? We have heard it*
from his own lips." (Luke 22:66-71)

The above passage comes from the gospel according to Luke, and it follows Jesus leaving the Garden of Gethsemane and being taken by the mob to Caiaphas' house. In Luke's version, Peter has already denied Jesus three times by the time of Jesus' trial, suggesting that Jesus has been in confinement until daybreak. In Mark's account, the trial of Jesus and the denial of Peter happen at the same time.

Differences like this can be troubling to people who want to synchronize the gospel stories. However, if we recognize that the authors had different purposes and audiences, we can accept these nuances as intentional divergences in the plot. For Mark, it was important to tie the two trials together, showing Jesus and Peter side-by-side in stark contrast. For Luke, it is of greater significance to show Peter's denial in the darkness and Jesus' testimony in the light of the dawn. The writers have different goals.



REFLECTION:
Consider how you view and interpret scripture when it comes to differing details in the accounts of an event.

PRACTICE:
Pick a story that is told more than once in the Bible and compare the different versions.