

The Gospel of Luke

Who is this Jesus?

Luke 22:63-71

1. They Thought He Was...

Jesus was accosted and arrested in the middle of the night by a mob of his most stalwart opponents. They were very afraid of Him and were convinced that He had to be silenced (Jn. 11:47-53). How they treated Him displayed what they thought of Him.

A. Worthy to be Mocked

Most likely Jesus was in the custody of the temple guards (cf. Mt. 27:65), and they heaped insults upon Him, mocked Him for what He was most known for (i.e. being a prophet), and subjected Him to a brutal beating (Mk. 14:65; cf. Isa. 50:6).

B. Worthy to be Slandered (Mt. 26:59-62; Mk. 14:55-61a)

The mockery of a trial included false witnesses who, though they agreed in their animus, could not corroborate one another's accusations (Dt. 17:6-8; 19:15-21; cf. Ex. 20:16).

C. Not Worthy to be Heard

Even when His accusers asked Him direct questions, they were uninterested in actually hearing Jesus' answer so as to examine His claims. They asked questions as a pretense for an accusation, and so Jesus did not honor them with the response they were after (Lk. 20:1-8; cf. Jer. 38:15).

D. Worthy to be Killed

When false witnesses and other questions could not entrap Jesus, the high priest asked Jesus a question in a manner that virtually required a response from Him. They understood Him to be making Himself equal with God which could be true of no creature (cf. Jn. 5:18; 8:58-59).

2. He Was...

Jesus was maligned and mistreated by those who should have heralded Him. His words and actions in response to hate and ridicule display true character.

A. Willing to Endure Hostility

Jesus had the ability not only to avoid the physical beating and the mockery that came with it, but He was able to utterly destroy each and every person who opposed Him (Jn. 18:5-6). His response illustrates true gentleness (cf. Lk. 23:34).

B. Willing to Endure False Testimony

The Old Testament is an infallible record of God's long-suffering endurance of people bearing false testimony about Himself. The two millennia since Jesus' day are another example of God's long-suffering of bearing false testimony about Himself. In this mock trial that Jesus endured, He displayed this same characteristic (cf. Isa. 53:7).

C. Worthy to Judge

In the first response of Jesus that Luke records during this trial, He turns the tables on His accusers and says that while they believe they are judging Him, He is the final and ultimate judge (cf. Ps. 110:1).

D. Willing to Die

Before His incarnation the plan was for Jesus to die (1 Pt. 1:20; cf. Gen 3:15). While Jesus was ministering to the people, He knew that people were out to kill Him (Jn. 5:18). When Jesus started the journey to Jerusalem, it was in order that He would go there to die (Mk. 8:31; 9:31). He answered this final question knowing that it would give the Sanhedrin the excuse they wanted to put Him to death.

3. Who Do You Think He Is?

This is the most significant question that anyone will ever have to answer. Simply having the right answer to the question is not sufficient (cf. Ja. 2:19), but a right answer coupled faith leading to a life that is characterized by obedience.