**Unfair and Unjust**

“How to respond to unfair and unjust treatment.”

**Text**: **Mark 14:53**, “**53**And they led Jesus to the high priest. And all the chief priests and the elders and the scribes came together. **54**And Peter had followed him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest. And he was sitting with the guards and warming himself at the fire. **55**Now the chief priests and the whole council were seeking testimony against Jesus to put him to death, but they found none. **56**For many bore false witness against him, but their testimony did not agree. **57**And some stood up and bore false witness against him, saying, **58**“We heard him say, ‘I will destroy this temple that is made with hands, and in three days I will build another, not made with hands.’ ” **59**Yet even about this their testimony did not agree. **60**And the high priest stood up in the midst and asked Jesus, “Have you no answer to make? What is it that these men testify against you?” **61**But he remained silent and made no answer. Again the high priest asked him, “Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?” **62**And Jesus said, “I am, and you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power, and coming with the clouds of heaven.” **63**And the high priest tore his garments and said, “What further witnesses do we need? **64**You have heard his blasphemy. What is your decision?” And they all condemned him as deserving death. **65**And some began to spit on him and to cover his face and to strike him, saying to him, “Prophesy!” And the guards received him with blows. **English Standard Version**

*Responding to unfair and unjust treatment requires you to*…

**Point #1: Remember** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_! **vv.53-54**

*Responding to unfair and unjust treatment requires you to*…

**Point #2: Expect** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_! **vv.55-59**

*Responding to unfair and unjust treatment requires you to*…

**Point #3: Anticipate** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_! **vv.60-65**

**Corollary Verses**: Matthew 26:3, 57; John 15:18-20; 1 Peter 2:20; John 2:19; Numbers 35:30; John 8:44; Jeremiah 17:9; Isaiah 53:7; 1 Peter 2:21-25; Matthew 5:44; Luke 6:27-28; Romans 12:14, 16-20.

**Application Questions**

These questions are provided for your further study and application of today’s sermon. Thoughtfully writing out the answers to the questions listed below will assist you in gaining a better understanding of the point of this passage. Please be prepared to discuss your answers with your Home Fellowship Groups.

1.) Read **Deuteronomy 16:18-20**, **17:7**, and **19:16-19** then answer the following questions.

The Jewish form of capital punishment was stoning, and the witnesses who testified against the accused had to throw the first stone. Why was it important to have the actual witnesses be the ones who would throw the first stones when exercising capital punishment? What other laws help support the integrity and veracity of the witnesses?

2.) Read **John 15:18-27**; **Matthew 5:10-12**, **10:22**; and **John 3:19** then answer the following questions. Jesus commands His disciples to remember His words in **John 15:20**. Why is it important to remember what He said in this passage? How will remembering this help you? Why should we be happy and rejoice when we are treated unfairly? How would you qualify being happy when persecuted? Why is it important to remember why you are being unfairly mistreated?

3.) Read **John 8:44**; **Colossians 3:9-10**; **Proverbs 14:5**; and **Jeremiah 17:9** then answer the following questions. Jesus identified Satan as the father of all unbelievers, in what ways should we expect Satan’s offspring to behave like their father? In Colossians what was one of our previous primary character traits as an unbeliever? Why should we expect unbelievers to lie and twist the truth? In **John 8:34-36**, Jesus said that all of us were formally slaves to Satan and Sin. Who is able to break the bonds of our enslavement to sin? How does this relate to John 6:44?

4.) Read **1 Peter 2:21-25**; **Matthew 5:44**; **Luke 6:27-28**; and **Romans 12:14**, **16-20** then answer the following questions. How should you biblically respond to hostility? Is this response both active and passive? Does this mean that Christians should be passivists? Does a believer have a right to protect himself/herself? Look at the following verses to support your answer; Exodus 22:2-3; Luke 22:36; and Romans 13:1-14.