"Why Do You Strike Me?"

Intro: This morning it is our ______ to continue our expositional ________ of the Gospel of John.

A. As the 18th chapter of John opens it is the night of His ____________, and the eve of the ____________.

B. Jesus _______ _____________ to be arrested.

I. The "great multitude" (Matt. 26:47) _______________ Jesus and ______________ Him.

A. They led Him to Annas to be ____________________.

B. Annas was Caiaphas ____________ ________.

C. Caiaphas had ______________ determined that Jesus should ______.

II. As the multitude arrested Jesus and brought Him to Annas, ____________ and another unnamed disciple ________________ along.

A. Having entered the high priest's court, the unnamed disciple ____________ _____________ for Peter also.

B. The slave-girl who kept the door asked Peter if he was one of Jesus’ ________________, to which Peter said, "I am ______."  

C. Peter _____________ with the enemy caring for himself just as the enemies cared for themselves, ________________ themselves by the glowing charcoal fire.

III. "The high priest therefore ________________ _____________ about His disciples, and about His teaching."

A. Jesus answered Annas' illegal effort to get Him to incriminate Himself by saying that His ________________ had always been given in the ________, reasoning that if He had said something worthy of arrest they would have already heard it, and they would have _____________ to search for something at that time.

1. Putting the ______________ responsibility upon Annas (the one to whom it belonged), Jesus told him, in so many words, to quit trying to get Him to incriminate Himself and to ________________ his _______ witnesses.

B. One of Annas’ officers _____________ Jesus ________________.

1. The Lord, in all calm, spoke truth and ______________ according to the ________. If He had reasoned and spoken wrongly they were not to beat Him but to bear witness of His wrong. And, if He had spoken rightly, they most certainly had _____ legal ______________ or reason to strike Him.
C. With the _______ inquisition coming to a quick end, perhaps even feeling out maneuvered and lawfully outmatched, Annas _______ _______ bound to his son-in-law Caiaphas.

IV. As Peter stood warming himself he was _______ _______ _______ _______ if he was a disciple of Jesus.

A. Peter _______ _______ it emphatically declaring, “I am _______!”

B. Then, verse 26, “One of the slaves of the high priest, being a relative of the one whose ear Peter cut off, said, ‘Did I not see you in the garden _______ _______’”

1. “Peter therefore _______ _______ _______; and immediately a cock crowed.”

C. After the third denial “the _______ turned and _______ _______ at Peter” (Luke 22:61)

Closing: Here at the close of today’s teaching, and as I so often do, I want to address two groups of people: those who do not _______ _______ Jesus and those who do.

If you have not believed in the Jesus of the Bible, I ask, “_______ do you strike at Him? Why do you refuse to believe in Him, calling Him a liar? Why do you _______ _______ at Him?” He has done you no wrong, but only good, offering you salvation from your sin unto eternal life through His sacrifice upon the cross! In the court room of the Almighty it is your unbelief that is _______ _______. You may call upon Jesus to prove Himself – but He has, and you have His word given openly. Will you now question Him to find fault in Him? You are the offender, and the day comes when you will stand before the Holy God to be judged. Strike at Him no longer, but be believing upon the Lord Jesus Christ, confessing your sin, repenting of it, and _______ will be faithful and just to _______ _______ you of your sin, saving you to everlasting life.

And, if you have believed in Jesus, I would encourage you to take care that you do not strike at Jesus. One may ask, “_______ might I strike at Jesus?” By _______ _______ Him! How many on Sunday morning come to church a pious Christian, and the at home, and in the work place, and on vacation, and as a husband or wife, or child under their parent’s authority strike at Jesus, denying Him by the _______ _______ and life. A person may not actually say the words, “No, I don’t know Him!” but in their life say, “I am not His disciple!” Why do you strike at Him? He has done you no harm – and further, _____ has _______ _______ all _______ _______! He gave His life for you! If we believers, like Peter, deny Him, let us weep bitterly, confess our sin, and deny Him no more.

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