

## MARK'S OPEN SECRET: *When Silence Is Golden*

Mark 14:53-72

- i. Ever been caught between a rock and hard place?
- ii. Ever found yourself in a circular and ongoing tension with little or no resolution?
- iii. Arguments rarely accomplish anything ...

### WE CAN MAKE IT THROUGH CONFLICT BY OBSERVING THESE 3 PRINCIPLES

#### I. PRINCIPLE ONE: KNOW WHEN IT'S BEST NOT TO SAY ANYTHING

- a. Jesus goes solo here.
- b. This “trial” was a set-up.
- c. The witnesses did not agree.
- d. The high priest makes the strongest statement so far in Mark's gospel about who Jesus is...the Messiah—see Mark 15:39.
- e. Blasphemy was punishable by stoning death.
- f. Jesus remains silent and points to his vindication.
- g. Isaiah 53:7.

#### II. PRINCIPLE TWO: FAILURE CAN BE A GRACE

- a. Peter “followed at a distance” and down below-incognito.
- b. First denial-of knowledge and will. Then stepped further away from Jesus.
- c. Second denial-in front of more people.
- d. Third denial-cursing and swearing. “And he broke down and wept.”
- e. The dramatic rooster crows.
- f. Pain is a profound teacher. AND YET ...

#### III. PRINCIPLE THREE: GOD STILL WORKS

- a. Jesus is vindicated in the resurrection.
- b. Peter is re-established.