

The Gospel of Mark

WEEK 35

10/29/2017

Religious Leaders Against Jesus in the Gospels

4 main groups that oppose him. **WHO they are:**

- **Note** that ALL 4 of groups were religious & had NO social/civil power to arrest people, etc.
 - **Pharisees:**
 - These are the *most frequent* “villains” that Jesus faces. They believed in a strict adherence to the Torah/Pentateuch = the first 5 books of the OT.
 - They walked around telling people what to do/not to do.
 - *They were legalists.* They claimed they could “save” themselves & didn’t need God’s Word or the Messiah, even though they claimed to follow him daily.
 - *They did believe* in the coming Messiah & resurrection, they didn’t think it was Jesus though.
 - **Sadducees**
 - Had a strong political influence over Palestine.
 - They were the *well-educated & well-respected.*
 - They **REJECTED** the Messiah & his resurrection, so they were “*sad you see*”.
They also denied bodily resurrections for believers.
 - They only acknowledged the Pentateuch as being God’s Law.
 - **Scribes, Priests, & Elders**
 - Main job was to read, write, and interpret God’s Word from the OT.
 - They were legal secretaries & chroniclers. They would help people with poor writing skills – *perhaps* they helped **Paul in Galatians 6:11** where he says he’s writing with such “*large letters.*”
 - Their fault was being “legalistic” and not believing in Jesus. *They questioned & opposed everything he did.*
 - **Sanhedrin**
 - Collectively, the first 3 groups above made the Sanhedrin. The group would always equal 71 – echoing Moses picking 70 elders to help him lead the people from Numbers 11:16. **The High Priest + the 70.**
 - They lacked power to put anyone to death, but since there were 70 of them, they did have a **STRONG influence** on the Roman government.