

**JESUS IS THE ONE  
WHO IS FAITHFUL**

John 18:12-27

# INTRODUCTION

- Jesus travels to a hearing before the Jewish officials and is followed by Peter and another disciple.
- As Jesus stands before His questioners, Peter is questioned repeatedly by the people.
- Throughout this passage of Scripture, Jesus stays faithful and doesn't deny anything.
- Meanwhile, Peter breaks under pressure and denies his association to Jesus.

# INTRODUCTION

- Essentially there are two scenes here.
- In a private meeting, Jesus exercises his right not to testify. Today we call that the Fifth Amendment.
- We know of this only because one disciple is allowed into the questioning.
- The other scene is public and involves Peter. In a sense, Peter is standing trial (in public) just as Jesus is standing trial (in private).

**JESUS BROUGHT  
BEFORE ANNAS  
AND CHAIAPHAS**

**JOHN 18:12-14**

# JESUS IS BOUND (12)

- Jesus had been praying in the Garden of Gethsemane when the mob led by Judas meets Him.
- Jesus identifies Himself to them, and they are overwhelmed by His authority. Twice Jesus asked who it was they sought, and twice they name Him.
- The Roman soldiers were there only if trouble broke out. The officers (Jewish temple guards) bound Him (as if they could restrain the Son of God).

# BEFORE ANNAS (13)

- Only John mentions the Roman soldiers and this “hearing” before Annas. He is the “other disciple.”
- The other gospels focus on the subsequent hearings before Caiaphas and the Sanhedrin.
- John mentions this because Annas is the father-in-law of the high priest, Caiaphas.
- This provides an opportunity to remind the reader of the unintentional prophecy by Caiaphas.

# PROPHECY (14)

- Back in John 11:46-53 the men who were to arrest Jesus came back and reported to the Pharisees what Jesus had done (miraculous signs).
- Caiaphas, who was the high priest that year, blurts out that it was to their advantage that “one man die for the people than for the whole nation to perish.”
- He meant it as a justification for killing Jesus, but John writes about it because it foretells the substitutionary death of Jesus.

# EMBELLISHMENT?

- John dwells on Annas because he is the driving force behind the trial and condemnation of Jesus.
- Annas was the high priest from A.D. 6 to A.D. 15.
- He was deposed by the Roman prefect Valerius Gratus (according to Josephus) and was replaced by his sons and son-in-law.
- Annas was the owner of the Temple Bazaar - who was the person who overturned those tables?

**PETER: DENIAL  
BY A FIRE**

**JOHN 18:15-27**

# FIRST DENIAL (15-18)

- All but two of the disciples fled for their lives (Matthew 26:56; Mark 14:50). Peter and “another disciple” followed Jesus.
- The other disciple is John who also “was known to the high priest” - John’s father had successful fishing business which allowed him to gain entrance.
- He came back to get Peter and let him come inside since Peter “stood outside the gate.”

# FIRST DENIAL (15-18)

- The servant girl recognizes that John is a disciple and then asks Peter if he is also one of the disciples.
- At this time, it was dangerous to be associated with Jesus, especially after His arrest. So the girl asks the question in the negative.
- The way it was phrased, Peter might not have had time to even think of his answer. He may not have realized what he said: "I am not."

# FIRST DENIAL (15-18)

- Then in verse 18, John sets the scene for the later denials - Peter is warming himself by the fire.
- Let's give Peter credit, he was willing to put himself in a dangerous place in uncertain circumstances.
- Providential hand of God: all the disciples were able to avoid arrest, John was able to be an eyewitness because of his relationship to the high priest, John was also able to witness Peter's denial.

# INTERROGATION (19-24)

- John now places two interrogations together:
  - The interrogation of Jesus by the high priest
  - The interrogation of Peter by the girl
- The high priest was questioning Jesus about His disciples and His teaching.
- The religious leaders were jealous of His prestige and power (Matthew 27:18).

# INTERROGATION (19-24)

- Notice how Jesus protects His disciples and avoids any reference to them.
- (vs. 20) His defense is simply that He has spoken openly in public about His teachings. He challenges Annas to “ask those who have heard me.”
- That answer is followed by a slap in the face.
- Jesus responds that He has said nothing wrong and should not have been slapped.

# INTERROGATION (19-24)

- Why does John record this meeting with Annas?
- Annas is the most powerful religious leader at the time in Jerusalem.
- He is the power behind the others and is working to get Jesus to say something that can be used against Him before Caiaphas and the Sanhedrin.
- His personal “fishing expedition” failed.

# SECOND AND THIRD DENIALS (25-27)

- Meanwhile Peter is standing at the courtyard as this scene is unfolding before John and him.
- The question by the slave girl is now being taken up by those who may have just seen Peter before.
- The first of these two questions is also in the negative like the question from the slave girl.
- Again, it was easy to agree with the negative question with a negative answer.

# SECOND AND THIRD DENIALS (25-27)

- The next question is different.
- One of the high priest's servants was a relative of Malchus. He was most likely standing close to both Malchus and Peter in the Garden of Gethsemane.
- He is now sure that he did see Peter with Jesus and asks the third question, which Peter denies.
- At that moment, a rooster crowed.

# SECOND AND THIRD DENIALS (25-27)

- Notice how gently John treats Peter, who had to live with his denial the rest of his life.
- John and Peter were fisherman who worked together (Luke 22:8). They worked together throughout the book of Acts.
- John does not record that Peter cursed (Matthew 26:73) or that Jesus looked at Peter (Luke 22:61) or that Peter went out and wept (Matthew 26:74-75).

CONTRADICTIONS  
AND  
CONTRIBUTIONS

# CONTRADICTIONS

- How many times did Jesus predict Peter's denials?
- When we consider the four gospel accounts, it is possible that there was more than one prediction.
- Not all of these predictions are made on the same occasion. It appears that the Lord warned Peter about his future denial perhaps three times.
- This is not a contradiction but a full picture.

# CONTRADICTIONS

- How many times did Jesus exhort his disciples to pray in the Garden?
- In the three gospels (Matthew 26, Mark 14, Luke 22) Jesus returns to them and goes off to pray three times.
- Could it be that Jesus was warning Peter three times that he would fall, and then urged him three times to pray that he would not fall?

# CONTRADICTIONS

- Did the cock crow once or twice after his denial?
- Mark 14 says that before a cock crows twice, Peter would deny the Lord.
- Matthew 26, Luke 22, and John 13 simply say that before the cock would crow, Peter would deny the Lord three times.
- Solution #1 - only Mark gave a number, the other gospels merely said the cock crowed.

# CONTRADICTIONS

- Solution #2 - a cock crowed once on the first denial, and then again by the third denial.
- Solution #3 - The word “cockcrowing” was a proverbial expression for early morning.
- What would someone hear at “break of dawn”? They would hear a rooster crowing.
- It is likely that is all that was being said, before dawn, Peter would deny the Lord three times.

# CONTRIBUTIONS

- The four gospel accounts give us a fuller picture.
- Luke tells us an angel ministered to Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane.
- The three synoptic gospels record the prayer of Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane.
- John is the only record of the “hearing” before Annas, and is the only one to record the restoration of Peter by Jesus (John 21).

**LIFE LESSONS  
WE CAN LEARN  
FROM PETER**

# 1. BOLDNESS

- Peter shows us that at one moment we can have boldness, and at the next moment we can show cowardice.
- One minute he is wielding a sword in the Garden. Later he is intimidated by a slave girl's question.
- One minute He is being praised by Jesus for recognizing that Jesus is the Son of God. The next minute Jesus tells him "get behind me Satan."

## 2. FAILURE

- Peter should be commended because his failure took place in public. The rest of the disciples scurried off.
- Peter and John followed Jesus and put their lives on the line in what was certainly a hostile situation.
- How many times are we willing to put our lives or our reputations on the line?
- Does the fear of failure incapacitate you?

# 3. IMPULSIVE

- Peter was full of energy and passion. He was often impulsive (words, sword).
- God used his energy and helped him restrain his impulsive behavior.
- We learn from Peter that zeal without discipline is recklessness.
- One fruit of the Spirit is self-control.

## 4. GOD'S GRACE

- Even here we can see the truth of Romans 8:28 -  
“God causes all things to work together for good.”
- The Jewish leaders and the Romans soldiers intended evil, but God used the crucifixion of Jesus for good.
- Peter denied Christ three times, but he was a leader of the Christians in Jerusalem and boldly proclaimed the gospel on the day of Pentecost.

