

“Gospel of John – Denial and Remorse”

Dr. Geoffrey Plummer
Calvary Baptist Church

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Scripture

John 18:12-27

“So, the Roman cohort and the commander and the officers of the Jews, arrested Jesus and bound Him, and led Him to Annas first; for he was father-in-law of Caiaphas, who was high priest that year. Now Caiaphas was the one who had advised the Jews that it was expedient for one man to die on behalf of the people.”

“Simon Peter was following Jesus, and so was another disciple. Now that disciple was known to the high priest and entered with Jesus into the court of the high priest, but Peter was standing at the door outside. So, the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out and spoke to the doorkeeper, and brought Peter in. Then the slave-girl who kept the door said to Peter, “**You are not also one of this man's disciples, are you?**” **He said, “I am not.”** Now the slaves and the officers were standing there, having made a charcoal fire, for it was cold and they were warming themselves; and Peter was also with them, standing and warming himself.”

“The high priest then questioned Jesus about His disciples, and about His teaching. Jesus answered him, “**I have spoken openly to the world**; I always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where all the Jews come together; and I spoke nothing in secret.”

“Why do you question Me? Question those who have heard what I spoke to them; they know what I said.” When He had said this, one of the officers standing nearby struck Jesus, saying, “Is that the way You answer the high priest?”

“Jesus answered him, “If I have spoken wrongly, testify of the wrong; but if rightly, **why do you strike Me?**” So Annas sent Him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.”

“Now Simon Peter was standing and warming himself. So, they said to him, “You are not also one of His disciples, are you?” **He denied it, and said, “I am not.”** 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 with Him?” Peter then denied it again, and immediately a rooster crowed.”

Last Week

We discussed Judas’s betrayal of Jesus and John’s recording of Jesus again saying He was God

This Week

We look at Peter’s reaction to Jesus’s arrest and the beginning of His Jewish trial

Seemingly different versions of Jesus’s arrest and His Jewish trial

How do we reconcile these minor differences?

Pope Nicholas I -> required the addition of a rooster to the roof of every Catholic church

What do we think of Peter’s denial of Jesus?

Matthew 26:31-35 (Peter's bold statement of commitment)

"Then Jesus said to them, "**You will all fall away because of Me this night**, for it is written, I WILL STRIKE DOWN THE SHEPHERD, AND THE SHEEP OF THE FLOCK SHALL BE SCATTERED.' But after I have been raised, I will go ahead of you to Galilee." **But Peter said to Him, "Even though all may fall away because of You, I will never fall away."** Jesus said to him, "Truly I say to you that this very night, before a rooster crows, you will deny Me three times." **Peter said to Him, "Even if I have to die with You, I will not deny You."** All the disciples said the same thing too."

Peter was bold in his support for the Lord as were the others

How did that play out in his life?

Even though ALL would fall away, he said, "I will remain faithful!"

Matthew 10:32-33 (The Lord's statement on discipleship)

"Therefore, everyone who confesses Me before men, I will also confess him before My Father who is in heaven. **But whoever denies Me before men, I will also deny him before My Father who is in heaven.**"

Did the Lord deny Peter before the Father in Heaven?

How many of you have concern that you will deny Jesus one day?

Good questions, let's work through this together

Last time, we saw that Judas brought an entire cohort along with the Temple police to arrest Jesus

The Jewish Trial Scene

John 18:12-14

"So the Roman cohort and the commander and the officers of the Jews, arrested Jesus and bound Him, and led Him to Annas first; for he was father-in-law of Caiaphas, who was high priest that year. Now Caiaphas was the one who had advised the Jews that it was expedient for one man to die on behalf of the people."

This huge group of people come to arrest Jesus

They bind him like a prisoner (a robber Jesus said) and lead him away

He is taken to a man named Annas, a "former" high priest in Jerusalem from 6 to 15 A.D. -> 15 years ago

He was removed from office by Pilate's predecessor Valerius Gratus

He was considered to be an evil man in his role, but his family was well connected in Jerusalem

Annas's family had long been in a priestly role, several of his sons were high priests in the years after him

Now Caiaphas was in that role, his son-in-law

Caiaphas did prophecy about Jesus saying better than He die rather than the Romans take all of them out

John 11:49-50

"But one of them, Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, said to them, "You know nothing at all, nor do you take into account **that it is expedient for you that one man die for the people, and that the whole nation not perish.**"

This is the beginning of the Jewish trial of Jesus

There will be a Jewish trial and a Roman trial before the crucifixion

We'll get back to that in a bit, but John begins to tell Peter's story

You'll see similar passages in **Mark 14**, **Luke 22** and **Matthew 26**

These accounts do not conflict with one another

Each account adds some color to the complete story

We have to remember that each Gospel writer (and the Holy Spirit) had a different audience or theme in mind

Peter's 1st Denial

John 18:15-18

"Simon Peter was following Jesus, and so was another disciple. Now that disciple was known to the high priest and entered with Jesus into the court of the high priest, but Peter was standing at the door outside. So, the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out and spoke to the doorkeeper, and brought Peter in. Then the slave-girl who kept the door said to Peter, "**You are not also one of this man's disciples, are you?**" He said, "**I am not.**" Now the slaves and the officers were standing there, having made a charcoal fire, for it was cold and they were warming themselves; and Peter was also with them, standing and warming himself."

John is the "another disciple" -> John did not name himself in his gospel -> humility

Yet John is apparently well connected in Jerusalem

He was "known to the high priest"

John speaks to a slave girl who is tending the door to Annas's home

She recognizes Peter -> "**You are not also one of this man's disciples, are you?**"

She uses "also" -> she could have known that John was a disciple of Jesus

What do we make of Peter's denial of being a disciple?

The other Gospels mention "being with Him" -> **Mark 14**: "You also were with Jesus the Nazarene."

Matthew 26 uses "Jesus the Galilean"

John uses the Greek word *mathetes* meaning a "student and devoted pupil"

"He said, **I am not.**" -> Peter denies that he was devoted to the Lord -> his 1st denial of Jesus

The Jewish Trial – Part 1 with Annas

John 18:19-20

"The high priest then questioned Jesus about His disciples, and about His teaching. Jesus answered him, "I have spoken openly to the world; I always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where all the Jews come together; and I spoke nothing in secret."

John records this interaction with Annas while the others record the interaction with Caiaphas

Why does John record the session with Annas? -> he and his family had a relationship with Annas

When Annas asks Jesus about His disciples and His teaching, Jesus responds that He was not in hiding

Jesus was not some false teacher, hiding and teaching in the shadows

He wasn't a cult leader, drawing His people away from their families

He spoke openly in the synagogues, in public, for all to hear -> You can see that **John 8**, for example

Paul spoke about his ministry:

Colossians 1:25-27

"Of this church I was made a minister according to the stewardship from God bestowed on me for your benefit, so that I might fully carry out the preaching of the word of God, that is, **the mystery which has been hidden from the past ages and generations, but has now been manifested to His saints**, to whom God willed to make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory."

Jesus brought to light the mystery of God's plan

Paul carried it onward as he spoke first in the synagogues

Jesus continued with Annas, asking:

John 18:21-22

"Why do you question Me? **Question those who have heard what I spoke to them; they know what I said.**"
When He had said this, one of the officers standing nearby struck Jesus, saying, "Is that the way You answer the high priest?"

Jesus asks why He is being questioned

In a legal Jewish trial, the accused would face witnesses during the light of day

Not a personal interrogation in the late hours of the night

"Question those who have heard what I spoke to them"

Jesus is asking why there are no witnesses if this is a formal trial in front of a recognized high priest

The charge brought against Jesus was that He claimed to be God -> He was a blasphemer

It would be natural for Annas to ask for witnesses that have heard that from Jesus

"one of the officers standing nearby struck Jesus" -> Annas was known to not follow legal process completely

One of Annas's henchmen strikes Jesus for having the timidity to question the legality of the process

John 18:23-24

"Jesus answered him, "If I have spoken wrongly, testify of the wrong; but if rightly, why do you strike Me?" So Annas sent Him bound to Caiaphas the high priest."

Jesus tells Annas that he should follow the correct procedure and He will not be bullied by him

Annas determines to send Jesus to Caiaphas so he can deal with Jesus

Caiaphas will have to gather the entire Sanhedrin, a 71-person Supreme Court to hear Jesus's case

John does not record these events for us, but Matthew does

Matthew 26:59-66

"Now the chief priests and the whole Council kept trying to obtain false testimony against Jesus, so that they might put Him to death. They did not find any, even though many false witnesses came forward. But later on two came forward, and said, "This man stated, I am able to destroy the temple of God and to rebuild it in three days." The high priest stood up and said to Him, "Do You not answer? What is it that these men are testifying against You?" But Jesus kept silent.

And **the high priest said to Him, "I adjure You by the living God, that You tell us whether You are the Christ, the Son of God."** Jesus said to him, "**You have said it yourself;** nevertheless I tell you, hereafter you will see THE SON OF MAN SITTING AT THE RIGHT HAND OF POWER, and COMING ON THE CLOUDS OF HEAVEN."

65Then **the high priest tore his robes and said, "He has blasphemed! What further need do we have of witnesses? Behold, you have now heard the blasphemy; what do you think?"** They answered, "**He deserves death!"**"

It's a sham trial anyway, they found false witnesses -> Jesus kept silent

They then ask Jesus a question, "Are you God?" -> asking Him to swear an oath

Jesus responds, "**You have said it yourself**"

In essence, He says, "You bet I am!"

Jesus tells them the exact truth and they have what they need, a charge that will stick

"He deserves death!" -> The Jewish trial is over -> He is guilty

Then John moves back to Peter's reaction

Peter's 2nd and 3rd Denial

John 18:25-27

"Now Simon Peter was standing and warming himself. So, they said to him, "You are not also one of His disciples, are you?" **He denied it, and said, "I am not."** 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 with Him?" **Peter then denied it again, and immediately a rooster crowed."**

Was Peter saved at this time?

Why did he deny Jesus?

When was Peter saved?

These are good questions to ask

What happens to you when you get saved? -> more exactly, who enters you when you get saved?

Did Peter have the Holy Spirit during Jesus's trials?

Remember back to John 15:

John 15:5-6

"I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in Me, he is thrown away as a branch and dries up; and they gather them and cast them into the fire and they are burned."

The juice between the vines and the branches is the Holy Spirit

Zechariah has this image of a Golden Lampstand and two Olive trees in Zechariah 4

It is a picture of an ever-flowing stream of oil, continually filling the lamps

Zechariah 4:6

"This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel saying, **Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,' says the LORD of hosts."**

Only the Spirit's presence can ensure there will be no denial of Christ

Apart from His influence, you will not be able to stand on your own

Not by your own might and not by your own power

Some of Paul's last words to Timothy was an early church hymn he recorded:

2 Timothy 2:11-12

"It is a trustworthy statement: For if we died with Him, we will also live with Him; If we endure, we will also reign with Him; If we deny Him, He also will deny us."

If our life is hidden with Jesus, we will live for Him and we will ensure to the end

Those who deny Him will be denied access to the Father by Him

What was Peter feeling after his three denials of Jesus?

Remorse?

Luke 22:56-62

"A servant-girl, seeing him as he sat in the firelight and looking intently at him, said, "This man was with Him too." But he denied it, saying, "Woman, I do not know Him." A little later, another saw him and said, "You are one of them too!" But Peter said, "Man, I am not!" After about an hour had passed, another man began to insist, saying, "Certainly this man also was with Him, for he is a Galilean too." But Peter said, "Man, I do not know what you are talking about." Immediately, while he was still speaking, a rooster crowed. **The Lord turned and looked at Peter. And Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how He had told him, "Before a rooster crows today, you will deny Me three times." And **he went out and wept bitterly.**"**

They were abusing the Lord in a courtyard outside of Annas and Caiaphas's house

Peter was there watching these events

When Peter denied the Lord a third time -> Luke records that the Lord turned and looked at Peter

Can you imagine what that felt like to Peter?

He experienced failure -> all he could do was to walk out of the courtyard audibly weeping

Remorse!

Matthew records that Peter swore an oath that he was telling the truth

Matthew 26:69-75

"Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard, and a servant-girl came to him and said, "You too were with Jesus the Galilean." But he denied it before them all, saying, "I do not know what you are talking about." When he had gone out to the gateway, another servant-girl saw him and said to those who were there, "This man was with Jesus of Nazareth." And **again he denied it with an oath**, "I do not know the man." A little later the bystanders came up and said to Peter, "Surely you too are one of them; for even the way you talk gives you away." Then **he began to curse and swear, "I do not know the man!"** And immediately a rooster crowed. And Peter remembered the word which Jesus had said, "Before a rooster crows, you will deny Me three times." And **he went out and wept bitterly."**

"I swear to God that I will tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth"

"As God is my witness, I do not know the man!"

Remorse!

Mark records that he cursed himself:

Mark 14:66-72

"Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant-girls of the high priest came, and seeing Peter warming himself, she looked at him and said, "You also were with Jesus the Nazarene." But he denied it, saying, "I **neither know nor understand what you are talking about.**" And he went out onto the porch, and a rooster crowed. The servant-girl saw him, and began once more to say to the bystanders, "This is one of them!" **But again he denied it.** And after a little while the bystanders were again saying to Peter, "Surely you are one of them, for you are a Galilean too." But **he began to curse and swear, "I do not know this man you are talking about!"** Immediately a rooster crowed a second time. And Peter remembered how Jesus had made the remark to him, "Before a rooster crows twice, you will deny Me three times." And **he began to weep."**

"May God damn me to Hell if I'm lying!"

Remorse!

Have you ever denied the Lord?

"Just as I am" is for you...

Prayer

Benediction