

The Jews and Peter: The Denial



John 18:12-27

- This passage is a descriptive picture of cowardly denial - the cowardly denial of both the world and a close disciple of the Lord's.
1. Jesus was arrested, taken and bound (v. 12-14). There are two significant points here.
 - A. Jesus was led away to Annas.
 - B. Jesus's time to die was now beginning.
 2. Peter's unnecessary denial: denial of association (v. 15-18).
 - Note three points about Peter's unnecessary denial.
 - A. Peter was innocently questioned by the doorkeeper.
 - B. Peter denied any association with Jesus and gave an unequivocal denial: "I am not."
 - C. Peter made an attempt to be known as one of the crowd.
 - Too many try to fade into the crowd, trying to hide their faith by joining with the crowd (Matt. 10:39; Prov 19:5; 1 Pet. 3:15).
 3. The world's unjust denial (v. 19-24).
 - A. Jesus was asked to incriminate Himself.
 - The world asks about His teaching to disprove it and to incriminate Him and His followers (John 12:48; 14:24; Isa. 55:7; Acts 8:320).
 - B. Jesus's reply was forceful: His teaching and claim had been declared publicly.
 - The problem with the world is twofold.
 - i. The world refuses to believe Jesus' claim to be the Son of God (John 6:38; 7:29; 8:42; 10:36).
 - ii. The world seeks for some secret, symbolic meaning and teaching in the Word of Christ (John 8:42-43; Rom. 10:3; 2 Tim. 4:4; Rev. 22:19).
 - C. Jesus was reacted against and mistreated: he was slapped in the face.
 - The world's religion allows man to continue in his own way and do pretty much as he wishes and still feel acceptable to God (Matt. 19:21-26; Rom. 12:1-2; 2 Cor. 6:17-18; 1 John 2:15-16).
 - D. Jesus incriminated the world (John 8:46; 2 Cor. 5:21; Heb. 4:15; 7:26).

- The world stands incriminated because the world has always rejected and mistreated the Son of God Himself (2 Cor. 5:20-21; 1 Peter 1:18-19).
 - E. Jesus was shifted about by the world (Eph. 4:14; Psa. 107:26-27).
 - F. Jesus's Jewish trail (v. 19).
4. Peter's denial: the denial of separation (v. 25).
- Too many believers fear, and because they fear, they lose their testimony for Christ (Mark 8:38; 2 Tim. 1:8; Deut. 31:6).
5. Peter's shattering denial: denial of discipleship (v 26).
- A. Peter feared man.
- B. Peter faltered, stumbled, and failed to die to self.
- Every denial of Jesus downgrades the Lord.
 - A crowd of unbelievers can put pressure upon any of us (Prov. 4:14; 2 Pet. 3:17; Titus 1:16; 2 Tim. 2:12; Phil. 1:28; Acts 2:40).
6. Conclusion: Jesus's Word was fulfilled, and forgiveness was extended to Peter (v. 27).