

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE CLASS
MAY 5, 2021
MATTHEW 26.69-75

INTRODUCTION:

1. Consider the character of Peter before and after His denial.
 - a) His character before His denial. (Matt. 16.15-17; 26.33-35; John 6.68; 13.37; 18.10)
 - b) His character after His denial. (Acts 4.5-10,13,19. 5.26-30)
2. After His arrest, Peter follows to see how the events would end.
 - a) **MATTHEW 27.58:** *“But Peter followed Him at a distance...”* As He was led to Annas.
 - b) **MATTHEW 27.58:** *“And he went in”* It was John who got him access.
 - c) **MATTHEW 27.58:** *“and sat with the servants to see the end”*

I. PETER DENIES JESUS

- A. His first denial.
 1. **MATTHEW 26.69:** *“Now Peter sat outside in the courtyard. And a servant girl came to him, saying, ‘You also were with Jesus of Galilee.’”*
 2. John provides some additional detail. (John 18.15-17)
 - a) **JOHN 18.15:** There was another disciple who was with Peter. (cf. John 20.3,4,8)
 - b) **JOHN 18.16:** This other disciple brought Peter in.
 - c) **JOHN 18.17:** It was the doorkeeper who questioned him. (cf. Mark 14.69,70)
 3. **MATTHEW 26.70:** *“I do not know what you are saying”* (John 18.17)
- B. His second denial.
 1. **MATTHEW 26.71:** *“And when he had gone out to the gateway, another girl saw him and said to those who were there, ‘This fellow also was with Jesus of Nazareth.’”*
 - a) This came from *“one of the servant girls of the high priest”* (Mark 14.66-68)
 - b) Luke says that this servant girl *“looked intently at him”* (Luke 22.55-57)
 - c) Specifically, she was *“one of the servants of the high priest, a relative of him whose ear cut off”* (John 18.26,27).
 2. **MATTHEW 26.72:** *“But again he denied with an oath, ‘I do not know the Man!’”* An oath was to be *“an end of all dispute”* (cf. Heb. 6.16).
- C. His third denial.
 1. **MATTHEW 26.73:** *“And a little later those who stood by came up and said to Peter, ‘Surely you also are one of them, for your speech betrays you.’”* (cf. Mark 14.70)
 2. **MATTHEW 26.74:** *“Then he began to curse and swear, saying, ‘I do not know the Man!’”* Immediately a rooster crowed.” Literally, to call on God for punishment.

II. LESSONS FOR US TODAY

- A. **LESSON #1:** The concept of denial is to disown.
 1. Peter said, *“I do not know the Man!”* (Matt. 26.72)
 2. We are to deny ourselves. (Luke 9.23)
 3. How do we deny Jesus today? (Titus 1.16; Jude 4)
- B. **LESSON #2:** Our fears can lead us to sin.
 1. Peter was determined to defend Jesus. (Matt. 26.35)
 2. Yet, Peter *“followed Him at a distance”* (Matt. 26.58).
 3. Fear can make us timid. (1 Tim. 1.7; John 14.27)
- C. **LESSON #3:** Godly sorrow leads to repentance. (Matt. 26.75; Luke 22.61,62; 2 Cor. 7.10)