“TRIAL & DENIAL”

John 18:12-27

Review of John 18:1-11

Thursday evening after the Passover Meal, Jesus and 11 of his disciples visit the Garden.

Jesus meets the arresting party and shows his power (I AM He statements).

Peter reacts to the arrest by striking at the servant.

Outline of John 8:12-27

12-14: Move from the Garden to Annas' House

15-18: Peter at the High Priest's home

19-23: Annas' interrogation of Jesus

24: Jesus sent to Caiaphas

25-27: Peter's interrogations

There are two trials (interrogations): Jesus interrogation and Peter's interrogation.

From the Garden to Annas' House (vv. 12-14)

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

From the Garden to Annas' House (vv. 12-14)

- The story moves from the Garden
- Why wasn't Peter arrested for attacking the high priest's slave?
- Jesus was taken to Annas first, not Caiaphas, the high priest.

Peter at Jesus' Interrogation (vv. 15-18)

15 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,

16 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.

17 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."

18 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.

Peter at Jesus' Interrogation (vv. 15-18)

- According to the other Gospels (Matt 26:58; Mark 14:54; Luke 22:54), Peter followed Jesus at a distance.
- The other disciple, who was known by the high priest, went in with Jesus while Peter stayed outside until the other disciple got him in.
- Most scholars believe the other disciple to be John.
- The Slave girl at the door challenged Peter.
- Once inside, Peter didn't go near Jesus, while the other disciple apparently moved closer to hear the conversation between Jesus and Annas.

Annas' Interrogation of Jesus (vv.19-23)

[19]The high priest then questioned Jesus about His disciples, and about His teaching.

[20]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.

[21]"Why do you question Me? Question those who have heard what I spoke to them; they know what I said."

[22]When He had said this, one of the officers standing nearby struck Jesus, saying, "Is that the way You answer the high priest?"

[23]Jesus answered him, "If I have spoken wrongly, testify of the wrong; but if rightly, why do you strike Me?"

[24]So Annas sent Him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.

Annas' Interrogation of Jesus (vv.19-23)

- Annas was interested in Jesus' disciples and His teaching.
- Jesus ignored the questions about His disciples and addressed the question about His teaching.
- In verse 21, Jesus asked Why are you questioning me. Call the many witnesses who heard me speak.

Conclusion of Peter's Interrogation (vv. 25-27)

25 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."

26 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?"

27 Peter then denied it again, and immediately a
rooster crowed.

Conclusion of Peter's Interrogation (vv. 25-27)

- Peter's denial is foretold by Jesus in 13:36-38

  John 13:36–38: [36]Simon Peter said to Him, "Lord, where are You going?" Jesus answered, "Where I go, you cannot follow Me now; but you will follow later." [37]Peter said to Him, "Lord, why can I not follow You right now? I will lay down my life for You." [38]Jesus answered, "Will you lay down your life for Me? Truly, truly, I say to you, a rooster will not crow until you deny Me three times.

- Peter failed the 2nd and 3rd Interrogation questions.

Conclusion of Interrogations

John constructs a dramatic contrast:

- Jesus stands up to his interrogator and denies nothing.
- Peter cowers before his interrogators and denies everything.

With the rooster crowing, Peter's apostasy is suddenly exposed to him, and 'he went outside and wept bitterly' (Luke 22:62). The hour of darkness of Peter's darkness

The Trials After Interrogated by Annas

Second: Matt 26:57-68 Judged by Caiaphas

Third: Matt 27:1-2 Judged by the Sanhedrin

Fourth: John 18:28-38 Judged by Pilate

Fifth: Luke 23:6-12 Judged by Herod

Sixth: John 18:39-19:6 Judged by Pilate

Peter’s Final Interrogation

- When Jesus confronts him later, Peter no longer trusts what he knows, but falls back on what Jesus knows (21:15–18).

- In that moment, Peter, the inadequate man, becomes Peter, the rock who is strong and dependable precisely because he has learned to depend utterly on Christ. For us, as for Peter, failure need not be final.





End of Presentation

Conclusion of Peter's Interrogation (vv. 25-27)

- In his denials, Peter realizes his helplessness.
- When Jesus confronts him later, Peter no longer trusts what he knows, but falls back on what Jesus knows (21:15–18).

- In that moment, Peter, the inadequate man, becomes Peter, the rock who is strong and dependable precisely because he has learned to depend utterly on Christ. For us, as for Peter, failure need not be final.