

“Friends Deny Him – Foes Debase Him!”

1. **Intro:**

1.1. After 2nd song, Communion – Prov.15:13-15. {You may eat & drink on your own}

1.1.1. See Poem back page.

1.2. **Father/Son fishing trip–3 baptized!** [Eric 2 of Georges Escalante nephews, & George baptized his father]

1.3. **Outline:** [1] **Friends Deny Him!** [2] **Foes Debase Him!**

2. **FRIENDS DENY HIM! (54-62)**

2.1. (55) **The high priest house** – Jesus was taken to **Annas’** house because it was closer to Gethsemane.

2.1.1. Annas(Caiaphas’ father-in-law) had actually been **set aside** by Rome, but allowed to retain his title. So he’s “*called*” high priest but his son-in-law is actually the recognized high priest.

2.2. Peter - cold, exhausted, shivering, sleepy, glad to creep in near a fire.

2.3. (57) **I do not know him** – 2 meanings are implicit, to *refuse to recognize* & to *abandon & deny solidarity w/someone*.¹

2.3.1. Put it in the context of an **apprentice** denying the **Rabbi** he’s been serving for 3 years.

2.3.2. **John** was there & unbothered – (Jn.18:15 he knew the high priest, & let Peter in)

2.3.3. **Peter ready to fight outside, inside trembled** before this *saucy servant girl*.

2.3.3.1. **Interesting** – **Courage**, when confronted with hardships; **Comfort** sought when amongst the enemies of Jesus.

2.3.3.1.1. **Thank God for Hardships!**

2.3.4. But, in times past I would have taken the opportunity to rip Peter.

2.3.4.1. I’m not exonerating him from blame, but if I check my own heart, I’m not surprised.

2.3.4.2. **Think about it...**How can we criticize him...when Jesus didn’t???

2.3.4.3. **Jesus never gave him up!!!** - Jesus never gave him up!!! 😊

2.3.4.3.1. **“I have prayed for you that your faith should not fail!”**

2.4. (61) **Oh the power of the eye’s!**

2.4.1. **1st** look at the power in the eyes of this **young servant girl**(56) ...which caused a grown man *deny his Master*.

2.4.2. **Next**, look at **Jesus’** use of His eyes, for good.

2.4.2.1. A look full of love indescribable, of infinite compassion, of pardon, of assurance, a saving look, a glance of the eye that said, I am here!

¹ Linguistic Key to the Greek New Testament(LKGNT); pg.208.

2.4.2.2. And don't forget, that the look of love of Jesus, however wonderful, would have been no good, if at the moment Peter had not been looking **His way!** – Peter kept his eye on Jesus, & caught the **love glance** in the eyes of Jesus!

2.4.3. **Appl:** If the Lord will manage your eyes for you, you will find that they will be **potent messengers of love** for Him.

2.4.3.1. May God give you **sanctified eyes** which can work **for Him!**

2.5. (62) **Satan in the courtyard!** (like a fox in the hen house)

2.5.1. **[1]** He was **sifting Peter**; yet it was only temporary for the apostle **wept, repented, & was restored.**

2.5.2. **[2]** He was in the **council chamber** to lead the men astray.

2.5.2.1. Satan had victory over the religious leaders permanently, as he blinded their eyes to truth.

2.5.2.2. 2 Cor.4:3-6 **“But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.”**

2.6. **Q:** What were the **strengths & weaknesses** of Peter here?

2.6.1. **Weaknesses** – We simply trace the stages of his failure.

2.6.1.1. **[1]** Lack of **prayer (22:40-46)** **[2]** He **followed** at a distance(**54**) **[3]** He **sat** among them(**55**) **[4]** And he **denied** him 3 x's.

2.6.2. **Strengths** – He **thought about** what he did(Mrk 14:72); He **wept.**

2.6.2.1. Though Peter's fall was **lamentable**, his **repentance & subsequent service to Christ** as recorded in **Acts** provides **hope** for all Christians.²

2.6.3. **Q:** What brought him to repentance? (22:32)

2.7. **Note that they recognized Peter by 2 circumstances:** he had been in the company of **Jesus, &** he had been in the company of **Jesus' followers!** (see vss.56,58)

2.7.1. These **2 marks on a human life** have always been indications of Christian discipleship, & are the same today.

2.7.1.1. A Christian is united to **both Christ &** to **other Christians.**

2.7.1.2. So, we have a **sure but simple test** of **a true Christian Life.**

2.8. **Are we quite sure we understand Peter?**

2.8.1. He's blamed for **“following at a distance”**, **yet** others were not there at all.

2.8.2. **Didn't the rest fall more quickly, & fall lower?**

2.8.2.1. **See, they were all self-confident (Read Mt.26:31-35)**

2.8.2.2. They all **denied** Him, as was prophesied, **& never followed** at all.

2.8.2.3. Peter soon stopped running with the rest from the garden, & returned.

² Shepherd's Notes; pg.84.

2.8.2.4. If Peter was to “*strengthen*” them(32), how could they be in *better spiritual condition* then he?

2.8.3. What Peter did was wrong, he denied His Lord 3 times!

2.8.3.1. But it’s **very easy** to **scorn** another’s failure, when we ourselves take **no risk** for Christ! **God forbid!**

2.8.4. Listen to Mabel F. Arbuthnot Poem regarding this:

With frightened lips I shall not ever say,
 “*I know Him not,*” for none will question me.
 I shall not need to speak a word today
 To publish to the world my loyalty.
 And yet a hundred times there comes the voice,
 “*Know you this man, the Master?*” and behold,
 A hundred times I make the fateful choice
 Today, as the apostle once of old.
 And every unkind word or straying thought,
 Each deed of hatred or disdain
 Say plainly to the world, “*I know Him not,*”
 And then the cock crows – bitter morn of pain!
 And would indeed today that they might be -
 The times I have denied him – **only three!**

3. **FOES DEBASE HIM! (63-71)**

3.1. **BRUTALIZED!** (63-65)

3.2. (63) It was **illegal** to arrest any man & take him to a **place of detention**, unless there was some specific charge preferred against him. (which there wasn’t)

3.3. Blindfolded & asked to identify who beat Him at his **Jewish trial** to test His **Prophetic office**.

3.3.1. **Roman trial** was to test His **Kingly office!** (Are you a King then?)

3.4. **Q:** Was this *pay back/venge* for fear of Him at the time of His arrest, when they were prostrated at the knowledge of his Power?

3.4.1. [**Whom are you seeking? Jesus of Nazareth. I am He!**]

3.5. **CHARGED WITH BLASPHEME!** (66-71)

3.6. (66) **As soon as it was day** – The **morning meeting** was an attempt to legitimize what they already had decided to do.

3.6.1. The Sanhedrin could not conduct a trial on a capital case **at night**.

3.6.2. This was not a trial at which **evidence** was being considered.

3.6.3. And, the **verdict** was predetermined. They decided Christ was **guilty**.

3.6.4. Now they just needed **legal pretext** to sentence Him.

- 3.7. (67) **Tell us – legal formula.** It was the method of administering the oath to the arrested person, demanding that He answer truthfully!
- 3.8. **You will by no means believe** – Jesus **never unfolded truth** to those about to **reject Him**, only to those who were **sincerely inquiring**.
- 3.8.1. **As Prisoner, He said nothing. As Judge, He will say much!**
- 3.8.1.1. Acts 17:30,31 “Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent, because He has appointed a day on which **He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained**. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead.”
- 3.9. (69) Jesus applies Ps.110:1 to Himself, “**The LORD said to my Lord, “Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool.”**”
- 3.10. The **right hand** is the symbol of power & authority.
- 3.10.1. Kings would seat their loyal subjects on the right at official banquets as a token of appreciation & honor.
- 3.10.2. **Easterners look with suspicion on whatever is done with the left hand**
- 3.10.2.1. Your **Left hand** is known as your “*unclean hand*”(i.e. for wiping).
- 3.10.2.2. **Indonesia**...if you ever passed something using your left hand you said, “**sorry, left hand**”.
- 3.10.3. **Presents** are offered with the right hand.
- 3.10.4. **Saluting/greeting** is always done with the right hand.
- 3.10.5. Hearing that Jesus was going to be **sitting on the right hand**, meant He was claiming, all **power & authority** would be entrusted to **Him!**
- 3.11. The **Sanhedrin** was a Jewish court of 70 members, plus the High Priest.
- 3.11.1. They exercised authority over **religious life** of the Jewish people.
- 3.11.2. They also operated under the jurisdiction of the Roman Authorities.
- 3.11.3. **So it seems Jesus points out “real authority”!!!**
- 3.12. (70,71) **You rightly say that I am** - The same as the modern English idiom, “**You said it!**”
- 3.12.1. Maybe that’s why John(the other apostle there) tells us why he wrote his gospel “**These are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God!” (Jn.20:31)**
- 3.13. **His enemies were watching for opportunity to commit religious perjury!**
- 3.13.1. Proof again... “**Dead religion is worse than no religion at all!**”
- 3.14. Looking to officially charge Him with **Blaspheme**, they try to get Him to admit that He was **Messiah**. {Greek/Christos; Heb/Mashiach} (*Shiloh, Daystar, Daysman, Immanuel*)
- 3.14.1. **We have heard it ourselves from His own lips** – Their purpose had now been achieved.

3.14.2. It did not matter to them that Jesus was **convicted** on the basis of *His own testimony*, a patently **illegal procedure!**³

3.15. His enemies now had quite enough to convict him.

3.15.1. Now only **Pilate** could say whether he should be put to death.

3.16. Jesus' attitude:⁴

3.16.1. **Toward the weak** – look of recall, met with love.

3.16.2. **Toward the brutal** – patience, prayer of forgiveness, time for repentance.

3.16.3. **Toward the malicious** – appeal to judgment, warning of consequences.

3.16.4. **Toward all sinners** – He offers mercy, .

3.16.4.1. **Q: Have you listened to His offer?**

3.16.4.2. **Is.1:18 “Come now, and let us reason together,” ... “Though your sins are like scarlet, They shall be as white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, They shall be as wool.”**

3.16.5. Ask yourself the 2 most important questions(67,70):

3.16.5.1. **Q: If you are the Christ tell us!**

3.16.5.2. **Q: Are you the Son of God?**

Welcome To The Table (Poem by William Cowper)

This is the feast of heavenly wine,
 And God invites to sup;
 The juices of the living vine
 Were press'd to fill the cup.
 Oh! bless the Saviour, ye that eat,
 With royal dainties fed;
 Not heaven affords a costlier treat,
 For Jesus is the bread.
 The vile, the lost, He calls to them;
 Ye trembling souls appear!
 The righteous in their own esteem
 Have no acceptance here.
 Approach, ye poor, nor dare refuse
 The banquet spread for you;
 Dear Savior, this is welcome news,
 Then I may venture too.
 If guilt and sin afford a plea,
 And may obtain a place,
 Surely the Lord will welcome me,
 And I shall see His face.

Olney Hymns, William Cowper, from Cowper's Poems, Sheldon & Company, New York

³ Shepherd's Notes; pg.85.

⁴ Outlines Studies in Luke; Griffith Thomas; pg.341.