

Episode #2-19 - The (Many) Problems of Peter

I. The purpose of the gospel of John is to produce believers in the fact that Jesus is the Christ, the One anointed by God to be the Savior of the world, and that Jesus is the Son of God, God represented in human form.

II. We have come to the section of John that deals with the Lord's arrest and trials leading up to His death on the cross. In this section, we consider the (many) problems of Peter as he tried to live up to his bold claims to stick with the Lord even after others didn't.

III. John 18:10-11. Peter tries to start the battle for Christ's kingship!

- A. V.10. Peter tries to live up to his bold words in John 13:37. He had a sword, Luke 22:38. He attacks Malchus "the" high priest's servant, so probably the one in charge. Peter was a fisherman, not a fighter, so he misses and only damages an ear.
- B. V.11. Peter had just seen all these men fall backward at the Lord's word. Now, how can He not defend Himself? He must drink the cup the Father has given Him. Peter anticipated trouble when he spoke his bold words, but never this!

IV. John 18:12-18. Peter follows the arrested Lord.

- A. V.12. The Captain = Greek *chiliarch*, a commander of a thousand soldiers. This is normally a Roman word, but if so, this is the only evidence that Romans were involved at all in His arrest. If this Roman word is borrowed for a Jewish force, perhaps this man was the captain in charge of the temple guard. Why should the Lord be bound, when He came willingly? Perhaps for show.
- B. V.13. Annas was high priest at the start of the Lord's ministry. Now he is the high priest's father-in-law, so still has influence. Had Herod changed it so there was a new high priest every year? John 11:49. This was not God's idea, for the high priest was supposed to be appointed for life. Annas was skilled in the law. Whatever might have been true in the garden, there were no Romans here for certain, in the house of a Jew.
- C. V.14. This reminds us of Caiaphas' Spirit-inspired prophecy. He did not mean what the Lord meant by it!
- D. V.15. According to Mark 14:50, all the disciples fled. But Peter and another disciple soon get ahold of themselves and follow Him. Who was the other disciple? If Nicodemus or Joseph of Arimathea (as suggested in the *Companion Bible*) why not name him as elsewhere? Could not have been Lazarus as some have suggested, as he was wanted for arrest as well. Remember that John the author often refers to himself as if talking of someone else. See John 1:6-8, 13:23. The purpose of the gospel of John causes him to want to stay in the background. How was John known to high priest? Perhaps John and James were of the rich caste.
- E. V.16. Peter waits while John scouts ahead. Then John returns to convince the porter to let Peter in.

V. Conclusion: When Peter claimed he was ready to die rather than abandon the Lord, he meant what he said. But Peter never imagined what actually took place! When the time came, he was not as strong as he thought he was. This is a good lesson for us. We need God's strength if we are to serve Him faithfully. In our own strength, just like Peter, we will fail.