

“Denial & Betrayal”

John 18:12-18 & 25-27

Timing / Setting / Situation

Verses 12 – 14: Then the detachment of troops, the captain, & the officers of the Jews arrested **Jesus** & bound **Him**. And they led **Him** away to Annas first, for he was the father-in-law of Caiaphas who was high priest that year. Now it was Caiaphas who advised the Jews that it was expedient that one man should die for the people.

Timing / Setting / Situation

In The Last Message We Established That Annas Was A Co-Regent
Or Co-High Priest With Caiaphas & Two Trials Took Place:

1st Trial In The Middle Of The Night With Annas

& A Few Chosen Sanhedrin Council Members Present

2nd Trial Later That Morning, With Caiaphas

& The Whole Sanhedrin Council Present

Q: “*What Happened To The Apostles & Disciples*

Who Were Present In The Garden At Jesus’ Arrest?”

A1

And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. Then **Jesus** said to them, “*All of you will be made to stumble because of Me this night, for it is written: ‘I will strike the Shephard, & the Sheep will all be scattered.’*” ... Then **Jesus** was arrested & they all forsook **Him** and fled.

Mark 14:26-27 & 50 (NKJV)

A2

Verses 15 & 16: And Simon Peter followed **Jesus**, & so did ‘*another disciple*’. Now ‘*that disciple was known to the high priest*’ and went with **Jesus** into the courtyard of the high priest. But Peter stood at the door outside. Then the ‘*other disciple, who was known to the high priest*, went out & spoke to the girl who kept the door, & brought Peter inside the courtyard.

There Are Two Interesting Questions To Be Answered In This Text

Dealing With The Disciples Following Jesus After His Arrest

Q1

*“Who Is The Other Mystery Disciple That Is So Well Known & Influential
That Caiaphas The High Priest Allows Him & Peter To Enter Into His Household Courtyard?”*

Q2

“What Did Peter Actually Say & Mean When He Denied Jesus The Night He Was Betrayed?”

(Slide 13)

Q1

*“Who Is The Other Mystery Disciple That Is So Well Known & Influential
That Caiaphas The High Priest Allows Him & Peter To Enter Into His Household Courtyard?”*

A1: Most Biblical Scholars, Commentators, & Theologians Believe
His Identity To Be John The Apostle And Evangelist Of This Gospel.

However, **Lazarus** Remains A Real Alternative Candidate!

Q: “*Who Is The Disciple Whom Jesus Loved?”*

A: He Is Always Associated With “*The Other Disciple*”

Or “*That Disciple*”, & He Is Always A “*Mystery Disciple*”

This Disciple Is Mentioned Only Seven Times, In The Entire New Testament!

All Seven Of Them Are Only Found In John’s Gospel:

1:35-39, 11:36, 13:23, 18:15-16, 19:26-27, 20:2-4 & 8, 21:1, 7, & 20-23

I Personally Believe That It Is Very Possible That John’s Gospel

Is In Fact A Product Of A 3-Fold Disclosure!

My Thesis On The 3-Fold Disclosure Of The Gospel Of John

- 1) As The Father Disclosed His Love & Salvation To His Beloved Son, Jesus Christ;
- 2) So, Jesus Christ Disclosed His Father's Love & Salvation To His "Beloved Disciple" & "Other Disciples"
- 3) The "Beloved Disciple", Lazarus & The Apostle John, Co-Disclosed The 'Good News' To All Of Us, In This Gospel, Named After The Apostle John!
So That Leads Me To Eight Specific Conclusions That Were Purposefully Designed Into The Structural Outline & Writing Of The Gospel. With Its Prologue (The First 18 Verses) Being A Built In Outline For Every Chapter That Follows!

Major Conclusions

- 1) I Believe John Co-Wrote The Entire Gospel With The Help Of Lazarus
- 2) Lazarus Is Being Mentioned Wherever One Reads, "Another Disciple", "That Disciple", & "The Disciple Whom Jesus Loved"
- 3) Lazarus Wrote The Prologue To The Gospel 1:1-18 To Serve As An Internal Outline For The Entirety Of The Gospel
- 4) We Encounter Lazarus In Chapter 1 & Chapters 11 – 21. Especially in Chapters 1, 11, & 18 – 21
- 5) We Encounter John The Apostle In Chapters 2 – 21
- 6) We Never Encounter John By Name, Other Than As A Son Of Zebedee!
- 7) John Is The Writer Of The First Conclusion To The Gospel 20:30-31
- 8) Lazarus Is The Writer Of The Final Conclusion To The Gospel 21:24-25

But Does John Fit This Question?

Q1

"Who Is The Other Mystery Disciple That Is So Well Known & Influential That Caiaphas The High Priest Allows Him & Peter To Enter Into His Household Courtyard?"

A2: Lazarus Remains A Real Alternative Candidate!

Evidence For Lazarus

- A) Recall That Lazarus Was Jesus' Wealthy & Affluent Friend. So, He Had The Social Standing.
- B) And Even The Religious Leaders Knew A Miracle Had Occurred, In Which Lazarus Was Supposedly Raised Back To Life By Jesus, Less Than A Week Before This Night!
- C) Lazarus Also Lived Just Two Miles From The Gates Of Jerusalem & More Than Likely Knew Many Of The Pharisees & Sadducees Who Made Up The Sanhedrin.
- D) It Is Also Very Likely That Lazarus Knew Many Of The Servants Of The High Priest's Household Staff, Like The Woman Who Kept The Gate Of Caiaphas' House, Mentioned Here Specifically By The Apostle John.

Q2

"What Did Peter Actually Say & Mean When He Denied Jesus The Night He Was Betrayed?"

A2

1st We Need To Notice That Each Of Peter's Denials/Betrays End With The Phrase, "**I AM NOT!**"

This Is The Complete Opposite Of Jesus' Declarations To All Of Us, "**I AM That I AM!**"

Conclusion

Therefore This Implies A Real, Full, & Complete Denial/Betrayal Of Being A Follower Of The Lord Or Even Knowing God Himself!

A2

2nd We Need To Take A Look At The Particulars Surrounding Of Each Of The Three Separate Denials & Betrays!

1st Denial

Verse 17: Then the servant girl who kept the door said to Peter,
“You’re not also one of this *Man’s Disciples*, are you?” Peter replied, “*I am not!*”

A: Peter’s First Denial Was To A Total Stranger – A Woman He Did Not Know!

Q1: “Do I, Deny/Betray My Lord To Complete Strangers?”

A1: This Includes All The People I Will Never Meet Formerly Or Come To Know In This Life,
But They Have Witnessed My Hypocrisy, False Faith, Poor Witness, Or Open Denial Of Christ!

2nd Denial

Verses 18 & 25: Now the servants & officers who had made a fire of coals stood there, for it was cold, & they warmed themselves. And Peter also stood with them & warmed himself ...
Now Simon Peter stood & warmed himself. Therefore, they said to him, “You’re not also one of *His Disciples*, are you?” Peter denied it & said, “*I am not!*”

A: Peter’s Second Denial Was To Everyday People
Servants, & Soldiers, Neighbors In The Local Community!

Q2: “Do I, Deny/Betray My Lord To Those I Meet Every Day In My Local Community”

A2: This Includes My Acquaintances, People I Know,
Or Those I Have Dealings With In My Community!

3rd Denial

Verses 26 – 27a: One of the servants of the high priest, a relative of him (Malchus) whose ear Peter had cut off, said, “Did I not see you in the garden with *Him*?” Peter again denied it, “*I am not!*”

A: Peter’s Third Denial Was To A Relative Of The Man Peter Tried To Injure, Hurt, Or Kill!

Q3: “Do I, Deny/Betray My Lord By Hurting Those I Have Injured Intentionally?”

A3: This Includes People I Know Or Have Known In My Life,
In Which My Life Is Intertwined With Theirs In A Hurtful, Spiteful, Or Resentful Way!

Then Immediately Prophecy Is Fulfilled!

Verse 27b: And immediately a rooster crowed.

Let Me Just Ask Myself A Few Of Questions Here This Morning!

Q: “Have I Ever Denied/Betrayed Jesus To Anyone By My Words?”

Q: “Have I Ever Denied/Betrayed Jesus To Anyone By My Actions?”

Q: “Have I Ever Denied/Betrayed Jesus To Anyone By Not Telling Them Who Jesus Is To Me?”

Q: “Have I Ever Denied/Betrayed Jesus To Anyone By Not Telling Them
How Much Jesus Loves Them & What He Has Already Done For Them?”

Q: “Have I Ever Asked Jesus For His Forgiveness
For The Times I Have Already Denied/Betrayed Him?”

Q: “Have I Ever Asked Jesus For The Power & Courage Not To Deny/Betray Him
Ever Again, No Matter What The Consequences To Me?”

So Right About Now You Are Saying To Yourself:

Q: “What Do I Do If Anyone Of These Apply To Me?”

A: Simply Ask Jesus First For His Never-Ending Mercy, Kindness & Forgiveness,
By Telling Him How Sorry You Are & How Much You Love Him!

A: Next Ask Jesus To Give You His Holy Spirit To Live Inside Of You & Transform You
Into The Person He Created You To Be, Living Without Fear Or Anxiety!

A: Finally, Ask Jesus To Give You His Resolve In Faith, The Same Resolve He Gave To Peter
After His Resurrection, The Resolve Of His Steadfast Spirit, Which Will Cause You To Give Your
Witness To Him In Any Situation!

A: A Resolve By Faith Like His Early Disciples Had, Can Be Yours Today For The Asking. And Then You Will Have His Courage, His Power, & His Strength To Carry Out His Final Command To You & To Me:

“All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age!”

And All Of God’s People Said – Amen!