

Sunday, June 24, 2012—Mark Dispensationally Considered—Mark 14:66-72: Peter Denies the Lord

Mark 14:66-72

- **66) And as Peter was beneath in the palace, there cometh one of the maids of the high priest:**
 - 67) And when she saw Peter warming himself, she looked upon him, and said, And thou also wast with Jesus of Nazareth.**
 - 68) But he denied, saying, I know not, neither understand I what thou sayest. And he went out into the porch; and the cock crew.**
 - 69) And a maid saw him again, and began to say to them that stood by, This is [one] of them.**
 - 70) And he denied it again. And a little after, they that stood by said again to Peter, Surely thou art [one] of them: for thou art a Galilaean, and thy speech agreeth [thereto].**
 - 71) But he began to curse and to swear, [saying], I know not this man of whom ye speak.**
 - 72) And the second time the cock crew. And Peter called to mind the word that Jesus said unto him, Before the cock crow twice, thou shalt deny me thrice. And when he thought thereon, he wept.**
- As we begin this morning's study it is important to remember that we have already study in Mark 14:26-31 that Jesus foretold that Peter would deny the Lord three times. Peter along with the rest of the Apostles all deny that they would ever fail to stand with and for Christ.
- At the outset it is also important to remember that the four gospel are complementary not contradictory. As with our last study on the trial of Jesus before the Jewish Sanhedrin we will need to consider Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John to get a full picture of these events.
- Mark 14:53-54—Peter follows Jesus to the palace of the high priest and sat with the servants and warmed himself by the fire.
- John 18:12-14—please remember from our last study that Jesus was taken first Annas (Luke 3:2, Acts 4:6) before he was sent to Caiaphas the reigning or active high priest. After standing before Annas, Jesus was sent bound to Caiaphas and the rest of the Jewish council (John 18:24).
- Mark 14:66-68—as Peter is standing in the palace warming himself by the fire “one of the maids of the high priest” said unto him “thou also wast with Jesus of Nazareth.” According to verse 68 not only does Peter deny that he knows the Lord but he claims to not understand what the maid is even saying?
 - Around the fire—Maid #1—Denial #1—Peter goes out onto the porch and the Cook Crew for the 1st time
 - Matthew 26:69-70

- Luke 22:54-57
- Mark 14:69-70—Peter now being on the porch is spotted by a second maid who says to them that stood by, “This is one of them.” The beginning of verse 70 records Peter’s second denial.
 - On the porch—Maid #2—Denial #2
 - Matthew 26:71-72—Peter’s second denial is accompanied with the swearing of an oath that he did not know Christ.
 - Luke 22:58
- Mark 14:70—Peter’s first two denials appear to have happened very close to one another, possible within in minutes of each other. A careful reading of verse 70 will note the expression “a little after,” thereby indicating that some time elapses in between Peter’s second and third denials. According to verse 70, the third time Peter’s affiliation with Christ is questioned it is on account of his speech. Being a Galilean, Peter is betrayed by his accent.
 - Matthew 26:73
 - Luke 22:59—accordign to Luke the amount of time between the second and third denial was one hour. In addition, Luke also mentions that fact that Peter was a Galilean.
- Mark 14:71-72—in his third denial Peter begins to curse and swear. It is interesting to note how with each denial Peter’s poor behavior escalates.
 - First Denial—“I know not, neither understand I what thou sayest (Mark 14:68).” In other words Peter plays dumb and pretends not to know what maid #1 is talking about.
 - Second Denial—“An again he denied with an oath, I do not know the man. (Matt. 26:72). When questioned by maid #2 Peter moved from playing dumb to denying with an oath.
 - Third Denial—“But he began to curse and to swear (Mark 14:71).” In his third denial Peter has moved on cursing and swearing in an attempt to convince his audience that he does not know Christ.
- Immediately following Peter’s third denial the cock crew for a second time and Peter remembered what Jesus had said to him. As Peter thought on these things he wept in shame.
 - Matthew 26:74-75
 - Luke 22:60-62—while the words of this third denial were coming out of the Peter’s mouth the cock crew for the second time. Luke alone records the fact that Peter’s third denial was made in the presence of Christ. According to Luke, it was the fact that Christ

looked upon Peter after this third denial that causes Peter to remember what the Lord had said unto him.

- John 18:15-16—these verses seem to indicate that the majority of Peter’s denial actually happened at the house of Annas.
- Here is what we know from the other passages:
 - Two maids in relatively close proximity to one another question Peter about his association with Christ. Both times Peter denies knowing Christ.
 - One hour later Peter is questioned a third time at which time he denies knowing Christ.
 - Jesus is in close enough proximity to Peter hears his third denial and look upon him according to Luke.
- From John we learn the following details:
 - John 18:26—the third person to question Peter was a relative of the man whose ear Peter cut off in the garden. That means that this person was with Peter and Christ in the garden and that this person was one of the people who lead Jesus bound to the house of Annas.
 - It is reasonable to assume that if this person were part of the group that brought Jesus bound unto Annas (John 18:12-13) that he also would have been part of the group that brought Jesus bound unto Caiaphas (John 18:24).
- In my opinion this is the most logical place for Peter’s third denial to have occurred is as Jesus is being transported from the house of Annas to the house of Caiaphas because it places all three of the major players in Peter’s denial together after a space of time. As this guard is escorting Jesus bound from the house of Annas to the house of Caiaphas he spots Peter and questions him. Peter then denies Christ cursing and swearing. Jesus then looks at Peter causing him to remember what Jesus had previously said about his denial. That means that John 18:25 occurred while Jesus was inside the house of Annas being questioned and that John 18:26-27 occurred while Jesus was being transported from Annas to Caiaphas.
- Based upon the combined testimony of all the verses we have looked at I believe that Peter’s first two denials occur at the house of Annas. An hour later, after questioning Jesus (John 18:19-23) Annas sends Jesus bound unto Caiaphas (John 18:24). As Jesus is being transported from Annas to Caiaphas, possibly still in the house of Annas, Peter is spotted by the guard and questioned. Peter now with Christ in close physical proximity denies the Lord for the third time. Jesus looks at Peter, causing him to be reminded about what Christ had told him regarding his denial. Peter then goes and weeps bitterly.