

John 18:25

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Simon Peter stood and warmed himself. They said therefore unto him, Art not thou also one of his disciples? He denied it, and said, I am not.

Analysis

And Simon Peter stood and warmed himself—John returns to Peter's denial, using imperfect tense *εἰστήκει* (*histēkei*, 'was standing') to emphasize duration. While Jesus **stood** before accusers, Peter **stood** among them. The detail about warming himself (*θερμαῖνόμενος*, *thermainomenos*) repeats from verse 18, bracketing his denials with physical comfort-seeking while his Master suffers.

He denied it, and said, I am not (*ήρυγγατο καὶ εἶπεν Οὐκ εἰμί*, *ērynggato kai eipen ouk eimi*)—The phrase 'I am not' starkly contrasts Jesus's repeated 'I AM' (*ἐγώ εἰμι*, *egō eimi*) declarations. Peter's self-preservation denies his identity as disciple while Jesus's self-revelation accepts His identity as God.

Historical Context

First-century Palestine's night temperatures (especially in early spring around Passover) could drop to 45-50°F. The charcoal fire (*ἀνθρακιὰν*, *anthrakian*, v. 18) would draw servants and guards together, creating the social pressure Peter couldn't withstand. After resurrection, Jesus would restore Peter beside another charcoal fire (John 21:9), redeeming this failure.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does your pursuit of physical comfort or social acceptance sometimes lead you to deny Christ?
2. What's the significance of Peter saying 'I am NOT' while Jesus declares 'I AM'—how do our denials reject our true identity in Christ?
3. Why does John include the detail about Peter warming himself—what does this teach about the connection between creature comforts and spiritual compromise?

Interlinear Text

Ἦν	δὲ	Σίμων	Πέτρος	ἐστὼς	καὶ	θερμαῖνόμενος	εἶπεν	
stood	And	Simon	Peter	G2476	also	warmed himself	They said	
G2258	G1161	G4613	G4074		G2532	G2328	G2036	
οὖν	αὐτοῦ	Μὴ	καὶ	σὺ	ἐκ	τῶν	μαθητῶν	αὐτοῦ
therefore	his	not	also	thou	one of	G3588	disciples	his
G3767	G846	G3361	G2532	G4771	G1537		G3101	G846
εἰ	ἡρούνθατο	ἐκεῖνος	καὶ	εἶπεν	Οὐκ	εἰμί		
Art	denied	He	also	They said	not	I am		
G1488	G720	G1565	G2532	G2036	G3756	G1510		

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 29:25 (Parallel theme): The fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth his trust in the LORD shall be safe.

Genesis 18:15 (Parallel theme): Then Sarah denied, saying, I laughed not; for she was afraid. And he said, Nay; but thou didst laugh.

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