

John 18:26

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

One of the servants of the high priest, being his kinsman whose ear Peter cut off, saith, Did not I see thee in the garden with him?

Analysis

One of the servants of the high priest, being his kinsman whose ear Peter cut off—This eyewitness (συγγενὴς ὁν, syngenēs ôn, 'being a relative') adds specificity and danger. The servant wasn't asking generally but confronting Peter with direct evidence: **Did not I see thee in the garden with him?** (Οὐκ ἔγω σε εἶδον, ouk egō se eidon)—'Did not I myself see you?'

Peter's third denial comes to the one person with physical proof (the healed ear, Luke 22:51) and personal grievance. Providence orchestrated the most compelling witness at Peter's most vulnerable moment. This kinsman's presence reminds us that miracles don't automatically produce faith—he saw divine healing yet opposed Christ.

Historical Context

Malchus, whose ear Peter severed (John 18:10), was slave to the high priest, making his relative part of the temple establishment's inner circle. These families of chief priests controlled temple operations through nepotism. That Jesus healed this enemy (His last miracle before crucifixion) demonstrates love of enemies in action, not just teaching.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How does the healed servant's kinsman still opposing Jesus illustrate that even miracles don't overcome hardened hearts?
2. What does Peter's denial to the very person who witnessed Jesus's healing mercy teach about fear's power to distort truth?
3. When has your fear of consequences led you to deny Christ before those who have the most evidence of His power in your life?

Interlinear Text

λέγει εἰς ἐκ τῶν δούλων τοῦ ἀρχιερέως συγγενῆς
saith One of the servants of the high priest his kinsman
G3004 G1520 G1537 G3588 G1401 G3588 G749 G4773

Ὦν οὗ ἀπέκοψεν Πέτρος τὸ ὡτίον οὐκ ἐγώ σε
being whose cut off Peter ear not I thee
G5607 G3739 G609 G4074 G3588 G5621 G3756 G1473 G4571

εἰδον ἐν τῷ κήπῳ μετ' αὐτοῦ
Did in the garden with him
G1492 G1722 G3588 G2779 G3326 G846

Additional Cross-References

John 18:10 (References Peter): Then Simon Peter having a sword drew it, and smote the high priest's servant, and cut off his right ear. The servant's name was Malchus.

John 18:1 (Parallel theme): When Jesus had spoken these words, he went forth with his disciples over the brook Cedron, where was a garden, into the which he entered, and his disciples.

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