

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 (συγγενῆς ὧν, syngenēs ōn, '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 ἐγὼ 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	εἷς	ἐκ	τῶν	δούλων	τοῦ	ἀρχιερέως	συγγενῆς	
saith	One	of	G3588	the servants	G3588	of the high priest	his kinsman	
G3004	G1520	G1537		G1401		G749	G4773	
ὦν	οὗ	ἀπέκοψεν	Πέτρος	τὸ	ὠτίον	Οὐκ	ἐγώ	σε
being	whose	cut off	Peter	G3588	ear	not	I	thee
G5607	G3739	G609	G4074		G5621	G3756	G1473	G4571
εἶδον	ἐν	τῷ	κήπῳ	μετ'	αὐτοῦ			
Did	in	G3588	the garden	with	him			
G1492	G1722		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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