

Luke 22:58

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And after a little while another saw him, and said, Thou art also of them. And Peter said, Man, I am not.

Analysis

And after a little while another saw him, and said, Thou art also of them. And Peter said, Man, I am not. Peter's second denial comes quickly—meta brachy (μετὰ βραχύ, 'after a short time'), perhaps minutes. A different accuser, heteros (ἕτερος, 'another' of different kind), identifies Peter. The accusation *kai sy ex autōn ei* (καὶ σὺ ἐξ αὐτῶν εἶ, 'you also are of them') groups Peter with Jesus' followers—'them,' the despised Galilean sect. Peter's response is curt: *anthrōpe, ouk eimi* (ἄνθρωπε, οὐκ εἰμί, 'man, I am not'). The address *anthrōpe* (ἄνθρωπε) is more dismissive than *gynai*—equivalent to 'fellow' or 'friend,' creating distance.

The second denial comes easier than the first—sin's progression. Having lied once, the second lie flows naturally. Peter doesn't elaborate or explain; he simply contradicts. The verb *eimi* (εἰμί, 'I am') is the same Jesus uses for divine self-identification (John 8:58, 'Before Abraham was, I AM'). Peter denies the 'I am' of discipleship while Jesus inside affirms the 'I AM' of deity. The contrast couldn't be starker: Jesus confesses truth unto death; Peter denies truth to preserve life.

Historical Context

The rapid succession of denials (three within perhaps an hour) shows mob psychology at work—once Peter is identified, others join the accusation. Matthew 26:71 places the second denial at the gateway, suggesting Peter tried to leave but was stopped. Mark 14:69-70 indicates the same servant girl from the first denial

alerted others. Peter found himself trapped—leaving would confirm guilt, staying meant continued interrogation. His denials bought time but compounded guilt.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. Why does the second lie come more easily than the first? How does sin create momentum?
2. What drives Peter to lie to multiple people rather than simply leave the courtyard?
3. How does Peter's repeated 'I am not' contrast with Jesus' willingness to confess truth?

Interlinear Text

Kαὶ	μετὰ	βραχὺ	ἔτερος	ἰδὼν	αὐτῶν	ἔφη	Kαὶ	σὺ
And	after	a little while	another	saw	him	and said	And	Thou
G2532	G3326	G1024	G2087	G1492	G846	G5346	G2532	G4771
ἔξ	αὐτῶν	εἰ	ό	δὲ	Πέτρος	εἶπεν,	Ἄνθρωπε	οὐκ
of	him	art	G3588	And	Peter	said	Man	not
G1537	G846	G1488		G1161	G4074	G2036	G444	G3756
								G1510