

Luke 22:59

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And about the space of one hour after another confidently affirmed, saying, Of a truth this fellow also was with him: for he is a Galilaean.

Analysis

And about the space of one hour after another confidently affirmed, saying, Of a truth this fellow also was with him: for he is a Galilaean. Peter's third accusation comes *diastaseēs hōsei hōras mias* (διαστάσης ὡσεὶ ὥρας μιᾶς, 'about one hour having passed'), giving time for tension to build. The accuser *diischurizeto* (διϊσχυρίζετο, 'confidently affirmed, insisted strongly')—this is no passing comment but forceful assertion. The phrase *ep' alētheias kai houtos met' autou ēn* (ἐπ' ἀληθείας καὶ οὗτος μετ' αὐτοῦ ἦν, 'in truth this one also was with him') uses legal language—*ep' alētheias* (ἐπ' ἀληθείας) means 'speaking truth, certainly.' The evidence: *kai gar Galilaios estin* (καὶ γὰρ Γαλιλαῖος ἐστιν, 'for indeed he is a Galilean').

Peter's accent betrayed him. Galilean Hebrew had distinct pronunciation—they slurred gutturals and had dialectical variations. Matthew 26:73 notes 'thy speech bewrayeth thee.' Despite trying to blend in, Peter's northern origins were audible. The phrase *houtos* (οὗτος, 'this fellow') is contemptuous—the accuser groups Peter with despised Galileans, rustic provincials. Galileans were stereotyped as ignorant, revolutionary, and unorthodox (John 7:52). But Peter's Galilean identity was his glory—the Galilean Jesus called him, transformed him, and would restore him.

Historical Context

The hour's delay allowed Jesus' trial inside to progress, increasing tension outside. Galileans were viewed with suspicion in Jerusalem—Judas of Galilee led a revolt in 6 AD (Acts 5:37), making all Galileans potential insurrectionists. Jesus' movement was seen as another Galilean uprising. That all the apostles except Judas Iscariot were Galilean confirmed prejudices. Peter's accent would have been unmistakable —like a rural southerner in New York or a Scotsman in London. Linguistic identity couldn't be hidden.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. What does Peter's inability to hide his Galilean identity teach about denying Christ?
2. How does the hour's delay intensify pressure and test Peter's resolve?
3. Why does God sometimes let our identity markers (accent, appearance) prevent us from blending with the world?

Interlinear Text

καὶ διαστάσης ὡσεὶ ὥρας μιᾶς ἄλλος τις
And the space about hour G1520 after another G5100
G2532 G1339 G5616 G5610 G243

διῆσχυρίζετο λέγων, Ἐπ ἀληθείας καὶ οὗτος μετ'
confidently affirmed saying Of a truth And this with
G1340 G3004 G1909 G225 G2532 G3778 G3326

αὐτοῦ ἦν καὶ γὰρ Γαλιλαῖός ἐστιν
him was And for a Galilaean he is
G846 G2258 G2532 G1063 G1057 G2076

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