

Luke 22:60

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Peter said, Man, I know not what thou sayest. And immediately, while he yet spake, the cock crew.

Analysis

And Peter said, Man, I know not what thou sayest. And immediately, while he yet spake, the cock crew. Peter's third denial is emphatic: anthrōpe, ouk oida ho legeis (ἄνθρωπε, οὐκ οἶδα ὃ λέγεις, 'man, I do not know what you say'). This transcends denying Jesus—Peter denies even understanding the accusation. He pretends total ignorance, as if the conversation itself is incomprehensible. The phrase parachrēma eti lalountos autou (παράχρημα ἔτι λαλοῦντος αὐτοῦ, 'immediately while he yet spoke') emphasizes divine timing—parachrēma (παράχρημα) means 'at that very moment.' Peter's mouth still forms denial when epōnēsen alektōr (ἐφώνησεν ἀλέκτωρ, 'a rooster crowed').

The rooster's crow is God's alarm clock, awakening Peter to his sin. Jesus predicted this exact sequence: 'before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice' (v. 34). Every word fulfilled: three denials, before cock-crow. The rooster announces dawn—literally and spiritually. It ends Peter's night of darkness and begins his journey to restoration. The bird's cry is simultaneously condemnation (exposing sin) and grace (prompting repentance). Nature itself testifies against Peter, yet God uses creation to reclaim His fallen apostle.

Historical Context

Jewish law prohibited keeping roosters in Jerusalem due to cleanliness regulations, but Roman soldiers and wealthy residents ignored this. The crowing likely came from the Roman garrison or nearby estates. Roosters typically crow around 3-4

AM, suggesting Jesus' trials lasted through the night. The 'cock-crow' (Greek alektōr, Hebrew tarnegol) marked the end of third watch, signaling approaching dawn. Jesus had warned Peter at midnight; by cock-crow Peter had denied Him thrice. The timing fulfilled prophecy precisely, showing God's sovereignty over even animal behavior.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. What does Peter's denial of even understanding the accusation reveal about sin's progression?
2. How does the rooster's crow function as both judgment and mercy?
3. What 'alarms' does God use in your life to awaken you to spiritual danger?

Interlinear Text

εἶπεν	δὲ	ὁ	Πέτρος	ἄνθρωπε	οὐκ	οἶδα	ὃ	λέγεις
said	And	G3588	Peter	Man	not	I know	what	thou sayest
G2036	G1161		G4074	G444	G3756	G1492	G3739	G3004

καὶ	παραχρῆμα	ἔτι	λαλοῦντος	αὐτοῦ	ἐφώνησεν	ὁ
And	immediately	yet	spake	while he	crew	G3588
G2532	G3916	G2089	G2980	G846	G5455	

ἀλέκτωρ

the cock

G220

Additional Cross-References

John 18:27 (References Peter): Peter then denied again: and immediately the cock crew.

Luke 22:34 (References Peter): And he said, I tell thee, Peter, the cock shall not crow this day, before that thou shalt thrice deny that thou knowest me.

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