

Luke 22:61

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the Lord turned, and looked upon Peter. And Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said unto him, Before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice.

Analysis

And the Lord turned, and looked upon Peter. And Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said unto him, Before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice. This verse contains one of Scripture's most powerful moments: *ho kyrios strapeis eneblepsen tō Petrō* (ὁ κύριος στραφεὶς ἐνέβλεψεν τῷ Πέτρῳ, 'the Lord having turned, looked at Peter'). Jesus, in custody, being moved from one area to another, sees Peter across the courtyard. The verb *emblepō* (ἐμβλέπω) means penetrating gaze, not casual glance. No words pass, yet volumes communicate. This is not angry condemnation but sorrowful love—the look that breaks and heals simultaneously.

That look triggered memory: *hypemnēsthē ho Petros tou rhēmatos tou kyriou* (ὑπεμνήσθη ὁ Πέτρος τοῦ ῥήματος τοῦ κυρίου, 'Peter remembered the word of the Lord'). The verb *hypomimnēskō* (ὑπομιμνήσκω) means to call to mind, remind forcefully. Jesus' prediction floods back: 'Before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice.' Peter's arrogant protest—'I am ready to go with thee, both into prison, and to death' (v. 33)—now mocks him. Jesus knew Peter better than Peter knew himself. The Lord's look says: 'I told you this would happen. I know you completely. And I love you still.'

Historical Context

For Jesus to 'turn and look' at Peter suggests visibility between interrogation area and courtyard. Archaeological discoveries at Jerusalem reveal homes with open courtyards visible from interior rooms. Early church tradition held that this look of Jesus haunted and healed Peter for life. It led to immediate repentance (v. 62), eventual restoration (John 21), and decades of faithful ministry ending in martyrdom. Church historians record Peter was crucified upside down in Rome (c. 64-68 AD), requesting that position because he felt unworthy to die like his Lord.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. What did Jesus communicate in that wordless look across the courtyard?
2. How does Jesus' look combine both grief over Peter's sin and love for Peter's soul?
3. What does Peter's remembering Jesus' words teach about Scripture's role in repentance?

Interlinear Text

καὶ στραφεὶς ὁ κυρίου ἐνέβλεψεν τῷ Πέτρος καὶ
And turned G3588 of the Lord and looked upon G3588 Peter And
G2532 G4762 G2962 G1689 G4074 G2532

ὑπεμνήσθη ὁ Πέτρος τοῦ λόγου τοῦ κυρίου ὡς
remembered G3588 Peter G3588 the word G3588 of the Lord how
G5279 G4074 G3056 G2962 G5613

εἶπεν αὐτῷ ὅτι Πρὶν ἀλέκτορα φωνῆσαι ἀπαρνήσῃ
he had said unto him Before G4250 the cock crow thou shalt deny
G2036 G846 G3754 G220 G5455 G533

με τρίς
me thrice
G3165 G5151

Additional Cross-References

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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