

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 strapheis 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	ἀπαρνήση	
he had said	unto him	Before	G4250	the cock	crow	thou shalt deny	
G2036	G846	G3754		G220	G5455	G533	
με	τρὶς						
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.
