

Mark 14:68

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But he denied, saying, I know not, neither understand I what thou sayest. And he went out into the porch; and the cock crew.

Analysis

But he denied, saying, I know not, neither understand I what thou sayest (ὁ δὲ ἡρνήσατο λέγων, Οὔτε οἶδα οὔτε ἐπίσταμαι σὺ τί λέγεις, ho de ĕrnēsato legōn, Oute oida oute epistamai sy ti legeis)—The verb ἀρνεόμαι (arneomai) means to deny, disown, reject—the same word Jesus used predicting this moment (14:30). Peter employs double negatives: οὔτε οἶδα (oute oida, 'I don't know') and οὔτε ἐπίσταμαι (oute epistamai, 'I don't understand'). He denies both knowledge and comprehension, a complete disavowal.

And he went out into the porch (καὶ ἐξῆλθεν ἔξω εἰς τὸ προαύλιον, kai exēlthen exō eis to proaulion)—Peter retreats to the προαύλιον (proaulion), the gateway or vestibule, attempting escape. **And the cock crew** (καὶ ἀλέκτωρ ἐφώνησεν, kai alektōr ephōnēsen)—the first cockcrow, between midnight and 3 AM (Roman 'cockcrowing' watch). Jesus had predicted 'before the cock crow twice, thou shalt deny me thrice' (14:30). The rooster's cry became God's voice piercing Peter's conscience.

Historical Context

The Mishnah (Baba Kamma 7:7) mentions regulations about keeping roosters in Jerusalem, suggesting they were common despite some restrictions. Roman time divisions included the 'gallicinium' (cockcrow) watch from midnight to 3 AM. The 'porch' or vestibule (προαύλιον) was the covered gateway between the street and

inner courtyard, offering Peter partial concealment while maintaining access to the trial's outcome.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. Why does Peter use double negatives ('neither know nor understand') in his denial?
2. How does the rooster's crow function as God's prophetic voice calling Peter to repentance?
3. What spiritual dynamic drives Peter to retreat physically (to the porch) while remaining near enough to watch?

Interlinear Text

ὁ	δὲ	ἡρνήσατο	λέγεις	Οὐκ	οἶδα	οὐδέ	ἐπίσταμαι	τί
G3588	But	he denied	sayest	not	I know	neither	understand I	what
	G1161	G720	G3004	G3756	G1492	G3761	G1987	G5101

σὺ	λέγεις	καὶ	ἐξῆλθεν	ἔξω	εἰς	τὸ	προαύλιον	καὶ
thou	sayest	And	he went	out	into	G3588	the porch	And
G4771	G3004	G2532	G1831	G1854	G1519		G4259	G2532

ἀλέκτωρ	ἐφώνησεν
the cock	crew
G220	G5455

Additional Cross-References

Mark 14:72 (Parallel theme): And the second time the cock crew. And Peter called to mind the word that Jesus said unto him, Before the cock crow twice, thou shalt deny me thrice. And when he thought thereon, he wept.

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