

Matthew 26:71

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And when he was gone out into the porch, another maid saw him, and said unto them that were there, This fellow was also with Jesus of Nazareth.

Analysis

And when he was gone out into the porch, another maid saw him, and said unto them that were there, This fellow was also with Jesus of Nazareth (ἐξελθόντα δὲ εἰς τὸν πυλῶνα εἶδεν αὐτὸν ἄλλη καὶ λέγει τοῖς ἐκεῖ, Οὗτος ἦν μετὰ Ἰησοῦ τοῦ Ναζωραίου)—Peter's first denial didn't end his trial. He withdrew εἰς τὸν πυλῶνα (into the gateway/porch) perhaps hoping to escape notice, but ἄλλη (another) maid saw him and identified him to those present. The contemptuous οὗτος ('this fellow, this one') shows disdain. She said ἦν μετὰ Ἰησοῦ τοῦ Ναζωραίου ('he was with Jesus of Nazareth'), using past tense—accurately observing Peter's denial meant he was 'with Jesus' past tense.

Peter's attempted escape from temptation failed—moving locations didn't remove recognition. This teaches that fleeing temptation requires more than changing scenery; it requires confronting truth. Peter should have left entirely after first denial, but he lingered, leading to deeper sin. The progression from courtyard to porch shows attempted compromise—staying close enough to observe but far enough for deniability. Such halfway measures multiply temptation rather than escaping it (1 Corinthians 10:13-14; 2 Timothy 2:22).

Historical Context

The πυλῶν (gateway, vestibule) was the covered entrance passage between street and courtyard—a liminal space, neither fully inside nor outside. Peter's location

symbolizes his spiritual state: neither fully committed (inside with Jesus) nor completely fled (outside in streets). John 18:16-17 suggests the doorkeeper (female) questioned Peter. The multiple questioners (servant girls, bystanders) and locations (courtyard, gateway) show Peter was recognized repeatedly, each time forced to choose confession or denial.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does Peter's attempted escape to the porch (rather than leaving entirely) illustrate the danger of lingering in temptation's vicinity?
2. When have you tried to maintain proximity to Christ while avoiding full identification with Him—and what resulted?

Interlinear Text

ἐξελθόντα	δὲ	αὐτὸν	εἰς	τὸν	πυλῶνα	εἶδεν	αὐτὸν
was gone out	And	him	into	G3588	the porch	maid saw	him
G1831	G1161	G846	G1519		G4440	G1492	G846
ἄλλη	καὶ	λέγει	τοῖς		ἐκεῖ	καὶ	Οὗτος
another	also	said	G3588	unto them that were there		also	This
G243	G2532	G3004		G1563		G2532	G3778
ἦν	μετὰ	Ἰησοῦ	τοῦ	Ναζωραίου			
fellow was	with	Jesus	G3588	of Nazareth			
G2258	G3326	G2424		G3480			

