

Who is Jesus?: Denied

John 18:15-18,25-27

Following Christ – Just How Far?

- A) Out of the Garden
 - a. With a fellow disciple (maybe John...maybe not)
 - b. In His own strength
 - c. Eyes turning away from Christ toward himself

- B) Into the City
 - a. Just outside the court: **Denial 1**
 - i. From soldiers to little girls
 - ii. Company of another couldn't protect ("also")
 - b. Not too close for comfort: **Denial 2**
 - i. Comfort of a fire vs. a slap on the face
 - ii. Closer to Christ in proximity, but further removed in affection
 - c. Recognized: **Denial 3**
 - i. Eyewitness makes the denial even more pronounced
 - ii. A "perfect" denial

- C) Share in His sufferings?
 - a. He was obviously willing to be arrested with Christ in the Garden
 - b. What happened?

Denying Christ – Just How Far?

- A) As Far as His Flesh would go
 - a. Further than he ever intended to go (**Matt.26:33-35**)
 - b. Saying more than he intended to say

- B) As Far as Scripture being fulfilled
 - a. Was it predetermined or prophetic? Is there a difference? Does it matter?
 - b. Does God sin? NO
 - c. Does God create sinners and use sinful acts? YES

- C) As Far as God's grace would allow
 - a. Who better to proclaim the first message to the first church but the one who had been redeemed from the greatest depths?
 - b. **Matthew 16:15-18**
 - c. **Matthew 16:24-28** (PRIOR TO CHRIST'S ARREST – SAME CHAPTER AS PETER'S CONFESSION AND CHRIST'S PROMISE)
 - d. **John 21:15-19** (NOT a Cheap Grace!)
 - e. **Acts 2:22-41**

The Application

- A) This brings us to a final observation: Why has John chosen to intersperse these events of Christ's trial and Peter's denial?
 - a. Is it not to show the extremity of Peter's sin?
 - b. Is it not to show the extremity of Christ's grace and forgiveness?
 - c. Is it not to show that there is an association we have in these denials and sin that we too are usable for the sake of Christ should we find our forgiveness in Him alone?

- B) If you claim to be a disciple in the garden, then be His disciple on Trial (**as Peter & John would be in Acts 4**).

- C) If you have failed and are discouraged as a disciple, consider **Hebrews 4:14-16**, "**14** Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. **15** For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. **16** Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need."

- D) If you are not one of Christ's disciples, what keeps you back?