**The Denial after Resurrection**

John 18:18 And the servants and officers stood there, who had made a fire of coals; for it was cold: and they warmed themselves: and Peter stood with them, and warmed himself.

**The Jews and Peter: The Cowardly Denial,** [**18:12-27**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jn+18%3A12-27)

([18:12-27](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jn+18%3A12-27)) **Introduction**: this passage is a descriptive picture of cowardly denial—the cowardly denial of both the world and a close disciple of the Lord's. It graphically shows what the Lord faces day by day in too many lives.

[1.  Jesus was arrested, taken and bound (v.12-14).](about:blank#link708)

[2.  Peter's unnecessary denial: the denial of association (v.15-18).](about:blank#link709)

[3.  The world's unjust denial (v.19-24).](about:blank#link710)

[4.  Peter's cowardly denial: the denial of separation (v.25).](about:blank#link711)

[5.  Peter's shattering denial: the denial of discipleship (v.26).](about:blank#link712)

[6.  Conclusion: Jesus' Word was fulfilled (v.27).](about:blank#link713)

([18:12-27](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jn+18%3A12-27)) **Another Outline**: Cowardliness

1.  Cowardliness is unnecessary ([v.15-18](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=John%2018:15-18)).

2.  Cowardliness is unjust ([v.19-24](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=John%2018:19-24)).

3.  Cowardliness is worldly ([v.25](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=John%2018:25)).

4.  Cowardliness is habitual ([v.26-27](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=John%2018:26-27)).

5.  Cowardliness is going back and forth ([v.18:28-19:15](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=John%2018:28-19:15)).

**1.** ([18:12-14](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jn+18%3A12-14)) **Jesus Christ, Arrested**: Jesus was arrested, taken and bound. There are two significant points here.

1.  Jesus was led away to Annas. Annas had been the High Priest, but he was not now serving. His son-in-law Caiaphas was the present High Priest. (See [Deeper Study #2—John 11:49](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=595&sec=00009648#link571) for more discussion.) However, as noted by John, Annas still wielded great influence. The trial before Annas was an informal trial, and the sinister plot was being carried out under the shadow and secrecy of darkness.

2.  The significant point is this: Jesus' hour to die was now beginning. It had even been predicted by the world itself, the corrupt leader of the religionists (see note—•[John 11:49-53](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=595&sec=00009530#sp10327) for discussion. Also see [Deeper Study #1, Hour—John 12:23-24](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=595&sec=00010167#link589).)

**2.** ([18:15-18](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jn+18%3A15-18)) **Denial**: there was Peter's unnecessary denial, the denial of association or pretension. Peter and some other disciple followed Jesus up to the gate of the High Priest. The other disciple was probably John, for the account reads like an eyewitness account (see [Deeper Study #1—John 1:39](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=595&sec=00001598#link264); note—• [Mark 14:54](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=591&tocpath=Mark%20Commentary\Mark\IX.%20THE%20SON%20OF%20GOD'S%20PASSION%20MINISTRY:%20JESUS'%20SUPREME%20SACRIFICE--REJECTED%20AND%20CRUCIFIED,%2014:1-15:47\I.%20Jesus'%20Trial%20Before%20the%20High%20Priest:%20A%20Look%20at%20Weak%20and%20Strong%20Character,%2014:53-65\2.%20The%20confused,%20yet%20courageous%20Peter:%20He%20alone%20followed%20Jesus%20(v.54))). It was this disciple who knew the High Priest personally. John's father, a very successful businessman, apparently provided fish for the palace. John was therefore well-known to the palace employees. Note that he was allowed entrance into the palace and arranged for Peter to enter the palace ([John 18:16](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jn+18%3A16). See [Deeper Study #5—Mark 3:17](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=591&tocpath=Mark%20Commentary\Mark\II.%20THE%20SON%20OF%20GOD'S%20OPENING%20MINISTRY:%20JESUS'%20IMMEDIATE%20IMPACT,%201:21-3:35\M.%20Jesus'%20Impact%20Upon%20the%20Twelve%20Disciples:%20Calling%20Choice%20Men,%203:13-19\DEEPER%20STUDIES\Deeper%20Study%205).)

Note three points about Peter's unnecessary denial.

1.  Peter was innocently questioned by the door-keeper. She knew John, that John was one of Jesus' disciples. Since Peter was associated with John, she assumed he was also a disciple of Jesus. She was either just carrying on conversation or else asking Peter for some identification. There seems to be no threat or danger to Peter whatsoever.

2.  Peter denied any association with Jesus and gave an unequivocal denial: "I am not." The point is this: Peter was a close friend of John, for John had made a very special request for Peter to be admitted into the palace. The gate-keeper was bound to think such a close associate of John's was also associated with John's Master (Teacher). Peter very simply failed his Lord by denying any association with Him and pretending not to know Him.

3.  Peter made an attempt to be known as one of the crowd. He joined the crowd, standing around with them and joining in their conversation and activities.

**1**. Too many deny being associated with Christ. People see us in church or associating with other believers—innocently see us—thinking nothing about it. But when and if asked, we deny any association with Christ.

**2**. Too many pretend not to know Christ when out in the world...

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| •  at their employment  •  at their school  •  at their social functions | •  among their neighbors  •  among their friends  •  among strangers |

**3**. Too many try to fade into the crowd, trying to hide their faith by joining in with the crowd. Standing with and trying to blend in with the crowd will always cause a believer to deny his Lord.

**"But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven" (**[**Matthew 10:33**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Mt+10%3A33)**).**

**"A false witness shall not be unpunished; and he that speaketh lies shall not escape" (**[**Proverbs 19:5**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Pr+19%3A5)**).**

**"But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear" (**[**1 Peter 3:15**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Pe+3%3A15)**).**