

Betrayed by my Voice

Scripture Reading: Matt 26:57-68

CAN U imagine the circus that took place at the mock trial of Jesus? Can you see the Jews frustrated, Angry, Gang-like atmosphere? Can U hear the ridicule, the shouting mob? Thru all of this, Peter had the opportunity for a ringside seat, chose to witness it all at a safe distance, not knowing what was to happen to his Lord, not remembering the words he spoke earlier to him. You will deny me three times.

Key Text: Matt 26:69-75

Vs. 58 Have you ever been caught up in a **mob scene**? Probably not? How about in the middle of a crowd while **something interesting** was about to happen. People **jockeying for position...pushing, shoving**, everyone wants to see!

Was PETER concerned for Jesus? Was he Worried for the Master? **YES**. But **love and devotion were not the motivators** for Peter here, what were they? The Bible tells us.....

1. **FEAR** - Peter Chose to Follow at a Safe Distance, and he sat with the servants instead of going into the Court with Jesus

-Granted, not all "fear" is bad....

Solomon, "**fear of the Lord is the beginning of Wisdom**"

David; "**Come you children, listen to me, and I will teach you the Fear of the Lord.**"

Fear can cripple a Christian, Fear can destroy your Spirituality

1 Peter 3:13-14 And who is there to harm you if you prove **zealous for what is good?** But even if you should suffer for the sake of righteousness, you are blessed. **And do not fear their intimidation, and do not be troubled,**

Why not? Because when you begin to fear, then you will begin to cease from doing what brought that emotion upon you....doing what is right.

Peter felt this emotion and cowered behind an angry mob....

YES, BUT PETER followed while all the others disappeared! Do not think for a moment the fact that he followed SIGNIFIED some greatness in Peter....yes he was

concerned, yes he felt love....but the greater motivator here was curiosity!!!!

HE followed at a safe distance to see what would happen? **REREAD vs. 58**

But Peter also was following Him **at a distance** as far as the courtyard of the high priest, and entered in, **and sat down with the officers to see the outcome.**

He was not there to DEFEND Jesus, nor to speak on his Behalf, he was there to SEE!

Vs. 69-70 Growing up we spent our summers outside, and we got so dark that my mom

would tease us, she said she had to card us when we came home to make

sure we were really her children!

Some suggest that ALL Middle-Easterners look alike, but the Galileans were

darker skinned than most, maybe that's how she recognized him, maybe she

had seen him with John earlier, WE DO NOT KNOW....BUT we do KNOW

HE DENIES IT! **“I do not know what you are talking about!”**

Peter plays dumb! Are we not just as guilty as Peter? Have we not ever acted the

same way OUT OF FEAR? Have we played Dumb while others spoke of things

that we knew Jesus would not approve of? I think many have!

Vs. 71 Peter decides, it's not safe in here, gets up to head out, but another servant girl

says hey...you were with Jesus!

-Back in College, my friend and I developed a fool proof way to meet girls. We

would scope out the one we thought was cute. I would approach her and say

Hi Linda (or whatever name I chose) so nice to see you, 2nd friend, sometimes

a third friend! Worked like a Charm... **Mistaken Identity Approach!**

But THIS Was not a Case of Mistaken Identity for Peter, what did he say?

Vs. 72 I do not know the man. It MUST HAVE been a case of mistaken identity! I do

not know the man. SHAME ON PETER!!!!

WHAT WOULD I HAVE DONE???? Peter was afraid for HIS LIFE!!!!

-I know those who have denied Jesus because they:

-afraid to be laughed at.

-afraid to cause an argument

-afraid that it might cost me social standing or a particular friendship!

SAD truth, most of us would have done the same....and HAVE under far less complicated situations!

Vs. 73 A third time, he is approached THIS TIME, surely you were with him, your accent, your speech, the way you talk gives you away!

Vs. 74-75 Goes beyond the simple denial this time, and he speaks in a manner no Christian should ever speak.

He begins to Curse, no not bad words, invokes a curse upon himself, if I am lying may wild dogs eat my family....or something like that...

AND he Swears, who knows, maybe by heaven and earth itself, maybe by Jehovah, I DO NOT KNOW THE MAN!!!

And Immediately the Cock Crows, Peter remembers the words of Jesus, and goes away and weeps bitterly. SAD STORY OF DENIAL AND BETRAYAL

Normally:

Stop and focus on the Denial of Christ, and it is a powerful lesson. Remember the words of Jesus himself..

Matt 10:33 “Whosoever shall deny me before men, I will also deny him before my Father who is in Heaven.”

Scary thought, but I want to focus on ONE SIMPLE IDEA this morning, “?”

DOES YOUR SPEECH BETRAY YOU?

You see, before anyone can accuse you of ‘being a Christian’ Before anyone can ever call you a “Jesus Freak” Before they look down upon you and call you a “goodie two shoes, or a “Bible Toter”

THEY MUST FIRST SEE IT IN YOUR LIVES!

Used to Date a Girl down in Texas, for health reasons I won’t go any farther....

-She’d call And in ONE word I knew who it was! Her voice betrayed her....

Do I Talk like I’m Jewish, anyone in here think I’m Irish or German???

-Had a lady once who told me I didn’t sound Mexican!

Your ACCENT may not betray who you really are.... BUT YOUR SPEECH WILL...

Consider following Passages:

1 Peter 2:1 Therefore, **putting aside all malice and all guile** and hypocrisy and envy and all slander, like newborn babes, long for the pure milk of the word, that by it you may grow in respect to salvation, 3if you have tasted the kindness of the Lord.

(Our speech should not include these things if we want to Grow in Christ)

1 Peter 3:10 "Let him who means to love life and see good days Refrain his tongue from evil and his lips from speaking guile.

(COME on Byron, only Jesus could do that, he can't expect that from us!)

1 Peter 2:21-22 or you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, **leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps**, 22 who committed no sin, **nor was any deceit found in His mouth**;

(HE DOES expect it from us....and he left us an example how to do it as well)

OUR Speech Betrays us....both ways... if our mouths are constantly"

- Complaining about something -Bad Words flow
- Gripping or Squabbling -Harsh when we are angry

But there is another way our Speech Betrays who we are....

- WE don't even have to run around saying I'M A CHRISTIAN!
- No one is Surprised when they find out HE's A CHRISTIAN?????????

Eph 4:29

Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, that it may give grace to those who hear

NAS

Col 4:2-6

2 Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with an attitude of thanksgiving; 3 praying at the same time for us as well, that God may open up to us a door for the word, so that we may speak forth the mystery of Christ, for which I have also been imprisoned; 4 in order that I may make it clear in the way I ought to speak. 5 Conduct yourselves with wisdom toward outsiders, making the most of the

opportunity. 6 Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned, as it were, with salt, so that you may know how you should respond to each person.

NAS

Col 3:16-17

16 Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God. 17 And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.

In Him,

Byron