

# Northern Messenger

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## Who Denies Him.

Jesus, after his night of watching and prayer, went out quietly to meet the crowd who came, led by Judas, and said: 'For whom are you looking?' They said, 'Jesus of Nazareth;' and He said, 'I am He.' When they heard Jesus say, 'I am He,' they went backwards, and fell to the ground. They felt,

Him again and again, and said, 'Master! Master! Peace!' And when the police saw Judas do that, they took courage, and seized upon Jesus, and held Him fast. Peter was wide awake now. Out came his sword. He did not generally carry one, but he had brought one to-night. And in a moment he had cut off the ear of one of the men who had come out to take Jesus. But Jesus told him to put

in-law, Caiaphas, was high priest now, but every one did what Annas said. And Annas was like a snake. He was like Satan. He was cunning and cruel. When Annas saw that Jesus had really been taken prisoner and brought safely to Jerusalem, he said, 'Take Him to Caiaphas.'

So Jesus was taken to the palace of Caiaphas the high priest, and John followed Him inside. John knew somebody in that house. That was why he was allowed to come in. Peter was left standing outside; but presently John asked the girl who attended to the door to let him in too. Peter was glad to come in to see what would happen to his dear Master.

The houses in the East are generally built all round a great square court. The court inside is like a big hall, only there is no roof over it. It was the middle of the night now, and the night air blew into that court, and it was cold. But Caiaphas's servants had made a great fire of coals in the middle of the court, and while Jesus was standing before Caiaphas and the other priests, the servants sat round that fire waiting and warming themselves. Peter came and sat with the servants, and warmed himself too.

Presently the girl who attended to the door came up to the fire, and she had a good look at Peter, and said, 'And you were with Jesus of Nazareth. Are you not one of his disciples?' Then Peter told a lie before all the servants, and said, 'Woman, I am not. I do not know Him, and I do not know what you mean.' And he went on warming himself, and tried to look as though he knew nothing in the world about Jesus. But Peter loved Jesus too much to be able to pretend very well. He was unhappy; he could not sit still; he got up, and went away into a covered place near the door, called the porch, and when he was in the porch he heard a cock crow.

I dare say Peter went into the porch partly because he thought that it would be dark there, and that nobody would see him. But the girl who kept the door could not let him alone. She told another woman servant to look at him, and that woman said to the people who stood by, 'This fellow was with Jesus of Nazareth, and is one of His disciples.' Then a man who stood there said to Peter, 'Are you not one of His disciples?' And again Peter told a lie, and said, 'Man, I am not. I do not know the Man.'

And now an hour had passed away. No one had asked Peter any more questions, and I suppose this made him feel a little braver, for he seems to have crept out of the porch to the part of the palace where he could see Jesus standing before the priests. He wanted to see and hear everything he could.

But Peter was fond of talking. He never seemed able to keep quiet for long together. And presently some of the people near said, 'Certainly this fellow was with Jesus, he comes from Galilee.' And they said to Peter, 'You must be one of the disciples of Jesus. The way that you speak shows that you come from Galilee.' One of the men there was a relative of Caiaphas's servant, whose ear Peter cut off, and he said, 'Did not I see you in the garden with Jesus?'

Now Peter was more frightened than ever,



PETER SAYS HE NEVER KNEW JESUS.

somehow, afraid of that lonely Man. They felt that He was greater than they.

Then Jesus asked again, 'Whom are you looking for?' and they said, 'Jesus of Nazareth.' Then He said, 'I have told you that I am Jesus of Nazareth. If you want Me, let My disciples go away.' Very likely they had seized on the eight disciples near the door, and made them prisoners, so as to prevent their running on and telling Jesus. I suppose they had all fallen asleep, too, instead of watching.

And now Judas came up to Jesus as if he were quite pleased to see Him, and he kissed

his sword away, and He put out His hand, and touched the man's ear, and made it well.

That was the very last thing those kind hands were able to do. In a few minutes more they were tied fast, just as if they had been the hands of a thief. When the disciples saw that, they were frightened, and they all ran away as fast as they could. But Peter and John soon felt ashamed of running away. They turned around, and came back, and followed Jesus a long way off.

The Temple police took Jesus first to the house of a priest called Annas. Annas was once the high priest of the Temple. His son-