

suspects him from his association with John. **I am not.** In his fear and confusion he denies his Lord.

18. The servants of the household of Annas. **Officers:** the Jewish officials of v. 3. **Peter stood with them:** he mixed with the crowd to escape observation.

19. The high priest: See above on v. 15. **Asked Jesus . . .** seeking information to be used against Him at the regular trial.

20. In secret. His private teaching was but the unfolding of His public utterances.

21. Why askest thou me? It was illegal to question the accused. **These know:**

"Your duty is to examine them instead of examining me."

22, 23. One of the officers, etc.: The fact that the high priest did not rebuke this brutal fellow shows that Jesus need not expect justice. **If I had spoken:** a calm and dignified protest. **Bear witness:** bring a charge against me.

25. Attention is again drawn to Peter. **They said:** the bystanders. **I am not:** the second denial.

26, 27. Again he is challenged; again he denies. **The cock crew.** (See Matthew 26:34.) Jesus looked upon him; and Peter came to himself (Luke 22: 61, 62).

ASK YOURSELF

Where was Jesus taken after His arrest? How did His disciples act? Which two returned? Whither do these follow Him?

Juniors

15-18. Who was the "other" disciple? What led Peter to deny Christ?

19-21. While waiting for the trial, who questioned Jesus? About what? Why? Why was it not lawful to thus question Jesus? Whom should they have examined?

22, 23. How was Jesus now treated? What reply does He make?

24. Of what Council was Caiaphas the head? Of what crime was Christ accused? (Matt. 26: 65.)

25-27. Where was Peter still standing? Who now spoke to him? What did they ask him? What did he answer? Who challenged Peter the third time? How did he reply? What then happened? What followed? (Luke 22: 61, 62.)

Seniors

Preliminary. On what charge was Christ sentenced? What was the legal punishment for blasphemy? (Lev. 24: 16; Deut. 18: 20.)

15-18. Why was Peter so courageous in the garden and so cowardly in the palace?

19-24. For what purpose did the high priest question Christ? What made it easy for Christ to answer about His teaching? Why could Jesus not expect justice at this trial?

25-27. What were the steps that led to Peter's denial? (Matt. 26: 33; Mark 14: 37; 14: 54; 14: 66.) How will Christ treat those who denied Him? (Matt. 10: 33; 2 Tim. 2: 12.) What brought Peter to himself? What course did he pursue?

PRACTICAL

1. Peter followed Jesus "afar off." Stragglers are sure to fall into the hands of the foe.

2. Mark the reasonableness and patience of Jesus under irritation and insult. When one is right there is no reason to lose one's temper; when one loses his temper he is sure to be put in

the wrong.

3. The only bright spot in the whole story of Peter's denials is his quick repentance. We cannot take back a sin once committed; but we can be sorry for sin and turn from it, as Peter did, to better things.

FOR WRITTEN ANSWERS

1. At whose challenge did Peter deny Christ the first time? The second time? The third time?

2. What was the secret of Jesus' calmness in the presence of His judges?

3. Explain how it was that the brave, loving, honest Peter came to deny his Lord.