

The lesson embraces three scenes. Each scene can readily be made vivid.

1. *Peter at the door of the palace*, vs. 15-18. Rallying himself after the first flight, he, along with John, had followed the band which had carried off their Master. (Peter and John are closely linked together as friends and fellow-workers; see amongst other passages, Mark 5: 37; Mat. 17: 1; John 13: 23, 24; Mark 14: 33; John 20: 24; John 21: 20, 21; Acts 3: 1; 4: 3; 8: 14.)

Take the scholars carefully over the sad steps that led to Peter's fall. He was too confident (ch. 13: 37). He followed "afar off" (Matt. 26: 58); he held back from going in, as he might have done, with John. — When he was admitted, again he held back, whilst John joined his Lord. This was the tempter's chance. A serving-maid's idle question did the work. Still Peter does not take warning. He ought to have remembered (John 13: 38), but did not. Instead of seeking Jesus, he hung about the fire with the motley crowd. Danger!

2. *Jesus before the high-priest*, vs. 19-24. Questioned possibly by Caiaphas, probably by Annas (vs. 13, 24)—giving no reply to the ques-

tion respecting His disciples—boldly referring the high priest to His public record in regard to His own teaching, as much as to say, "Your questioning is insincere. You seek to catch me in my speech rather than to get knowledge." And then the foul insult, the first of a series; His calm and dignified protest, and His patience under injury (1 Pet. 2: 23); finally the re-binding of the Man of Nazareth and the sending of Him to Caiaphas as the head of the Sanhedrim.

3. *Peter again*, vs. 25-27. Still where he ought not to have been. He had forgotten the petition in the prayer his Master had taught him, "Lead us not into temptation." The challenge of those who stood about the fire and his sharp denial. The third challenge, now by a relative of Malchus, and the third denial. The cock crew. The Master's look. Peter's sudden exit and bitter tears.

The whole lesson, a sad commentary on the Golden Text, "He came unto his own and his own received him not." The only bits of light, John's keeping near his Lord and Peter's bitter tears. "Godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation." (2. Cor. 7: 10.)

TOPICS FOR BRIEF PAPERS

(To be assigned the Sabbath previous. Only one topic should be given to each scholar. Sometimes all may be asked to take the same topic. The papers to be read out in the class.)

1. The High Priest, his office, privilege and duties.
2. How to act under injurious treatment.
3. Temptation.

BLACKBOARD REVIEW

"He came unto His own and His own received Him not."

THE HIGH PRIEST—INSINCERE QUESTIONING

THE OFFICER—RUDE INSULT

THE DISCIPLES—BASE DENIAL