

The Two Witnesses

When Jesus was arrested and taken to Caiaphas' house for questioning, we know that an unknown disciple and Peter accompanied Him. The gospels show the accounts of Peter's denial, and for those of you who know the Testimony of the Holy Spirit,¹ you also know that Peter denied that he was a Galilean and a disciple and that he knew the Lord a total of nine times. Yet there is no record of the other disciple denying Jesus. There is no record that this disciple was even questioned, but we know that he was there, for he was the one who arranged for Peter to get into the courtyard.

Why were they, Peter and the unknown disciple, there? Remember that in the law everything has to be established by two or more witnesses. The two disciples were there to bear witness to what they were doing to Jesus and the line of questioning they posed to Jesus, so that the injustice that was plotted is recorded.

However, they were there for an even greater and higher purpose, and that is to bear witness that they know Jesus to be the Son of God. Peter in particular, for to him was given the revelation that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that revelation came from the Father. They were there so that when the high priest asked Jesus the question, "I charge You under oath by the living God: Tell us if You are the Christ, the Son of God. Are You the Christ, the Son of the Blessed One?"² and Jesus replied, "I am. And yes, it is as you say,"³ the two disciples could testify that what Jesus had answered was true. It was not the intention of God that the Sanhedrin send Jesus to death on unsubstantiated testimony or lies, but rather, on testimony that is verified by two true witnesses – Peter and the other disciple. However, neither spoke up and Jesus was crucified for claiming to be the Son of God on testimony that had not been established.

As soon as Peter denied Jesus, there was no need for the other disciple to be questioned, for two testimonies were needed. That is why Peter was pursued and harassed until the number of his denials reached nine. Without Peter's testimony, there was no need for the other disciple. Without Peter's testimony, Jesus was sentenced without proper verification of the charge that He is the Son of God.

What would have happened if Peter had said, "Yes, I am His disciple and He is the Christ, the Son of God... a revelation given to me by the Father Himself"? They would then have questioned the other disciple. The testimony of Peter and the other disciple would have established the testimony of Jesus. It would not have saved Jesus from death on the cross, but it would have allowed the Lord to have two witnesses who would be available to witness the resurrection. If Peter and the other disciple testified that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, the Sanhedrin would have had them stoned and then used their testimony to have Jesus crucified publicly to show the Jews that Jesus is not the Messiah, for the Messiah cannot be killed. Peter and the other disciple would have been killed either by stoning there and then or by crucifixion on either side of Jesus instead of the two thieves. Like the two thieves, they would have been killed and buried, even with Jesus.

However, on resurrection morning, these two – Peter and the other disciple – would have been raised with Jesus to be witnesses also of the resurrection, and they would have been the ones sent to give the news to the others. Messengers who are first hand witnesses of the resurrection, rather than messengers bearing a second hand message at first. Their death and their raising would have fulfilled John 11.25, and the events of resurrection morning would have been very, very different. The church would have been very different.

However, these things never happened. Why? Because when it suits us, we deny that we are His disciples and that we even know Him. And as long as there are no disciples who know Him, the truth of Jesus cannot be established. That has been the effective strategy of Satan for the last two millenniums. With the help of men who do not have in mind the things of God, raising up a church that seeks to

¹ thetestimony.com.au

² Matthew 26.63; Mark 14.61 The Testimony

³ Matthew 26.64; Mark 14.62 The Testimony

replace the teachings of Jesus with the teachings of men, the plan of God to have Jesus return to reign on the Earth has been delayed.

However, the good news is this: There are now disciples on the Earth again who know Jesus and they have the power to prove it. As long as those of us who are disciples of Jesus and who have the power to prove it do not deny Him, the plan of God for Jesus to return is imminent.

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