

# NO COMMENT

Although Peter became one of the key leaders of the Early Church, it wasn't before denying Christ and his subsequent guilt and shame. This fictional scenario places his denial into a more modern backdrop, with Peter being interviewed by police detectives on the charge of being one of Jesus's disciples.

**Bible references:** Matthew 26:31-35; Mark 14:26-31; Luke 22:31-34; John 13:36-38

**Cast:** Detective Inspector (DI) Lewis, Detective Constable (DC) Jones, Peter, Peter's solicitor (non-speaking role)

**Props:** Table, four chairs, folder of evidence containing photos, recording device, audio recording of a rooster crowing.

**Performance notes:** The characters of Lewis and Jones should reflect those observed in typical TV detective shows. Of course they know Peter is Jesus's right-hand man, but they're goading him to admit it – and Peter hasn't had that moment of realisation that he's denying Christ as predicted yet.

The performance should aim to give the audience some insight into the impact of Peter's denial, that this fall from grace might potentially have caused him to walk away from it all in shame.

The date stated in the opening line could be altered to match the particular date on which Good Friday falls in the year you perform the piece.

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Written by Stephanie Lamplough

*(The table is set centre stage with two chairs either side. Peter and his solicitor sit one side and DC Jones sits on the other. DI Lewis enters.)*

**DI Lewis** *(Turns on tape and speaks clearly)* This interview is commencing at 5 am on Friday 30th March. Present are DI Lewis, DC Jones, Simon son of Jonah, also known as 'Peter'.

*(Addressing Peter)* Peter, you have been charged with being a disciple and follower of Jesus of Nazareth. It is alleged that you followed this Jesus after he approached you whilst you were fishing, that you left your home and family and followed him around, and that in that time you professed him to be – and I quote – 'the Christ, the Son of Living God'.

Now I am sure you know that to hail this man as the Son of God is indeed blasphemy and that this said Jesus will be executed this very day for proclaiming to be the King of the Jews.

We have witnesses who say that they saw you with this man just this very morning as he was being arrested. Do you have anything to say?

**Peter** *(Looks at his solicitor)* No comment.

*(DC Jones removes photos from folder and places them on the table in front of Peter.)*

**DC Jones** Are you denying that you know this man?  
We have photos of you with the said Jesus.

*(Pointing at one)* Is this you, Peter?

*(Silence.)*

*(Brings specific photos to the top of the pile and places them in front of Peter.)*

**DC Jones**

This is a photo of you with Jesus and the tax collector Zacchaeus taken last week.

This shows you with Jesus in the park, giving out food to the hungry.

And this was taken when you returned from a so-called 'healing tour' with the other disciples over a year ago.

*(Peter shakes his head.)*

**DI Lewis**

For the tape, the accused shook his head in the negative.

Yes, we've been on your trail for a long time, Peter. More photos from last year, last week, yesterday.

*(Peter stares at his hands.)*

Look at them, Peter. *(Points)* Is that you, Peter?

Where were you last night, Peter? Were you in the room with his other friends sharing a meal, Peter? Were you sharing in a meal with him and 11 others?

Answer me, Peter! You're not doing yourself any favours staying quiet. Do you know this man?

**Peter**

*(Looks at his solicitor)* No comment.

**DC Jones**

Look, we know that you were in that room. We have a witness willing to testify that not only were you one of the twelve gathered, but that you were one of his closest friends.

**DI Lewis**

Judas is in that very room next door telling us everything that we need to know. You need to speak up soon and admit that you are one of Jesus' followers before Judas drops you in it!

So I'll ask you a third time – do you know Jesus, the King of the Jews?

**Peter**

*(Stands up and shouts)* No comment!

*(The sound of a rooster crowing can be heard. DC Jones and DI Lewis look at each other and laugh. Peter sits back down deflated, head in his hands.)*

**DI Lewis** Remind me what the nickname 'Peter' means, DC Jones?

**DC Jones** It means 'rock', sir.

**DI Lewis** Yes, well I'm not sure the name is a very good fit, do you, Peter? *(To DC Jones)* Nothing particularly firm and dependable about this one, is there?

**DC Jones** Maybe Jesus was wrong about him?

**DI Lewis** I think you've hit the nail on the head, DC Jones.

*(Addressing Peter, speaking more formally for the benefit of the tape)* Simon, son of John, I'm formally concluding this interview because I am satisfied that you pose absolutely no threat to either the empire or the religious establishment... We've been very concerned Jesus had been training you up to be someone important in his ranks but – from your responses today – it's quite clear that we (or maybe Jesus) have got the wrong end of the stick.

**DC Jones** *(One hand to his ear, as though listening to an earpiece)* We're getting a call out, sir – there's been another disturbance.

**DI Lewis** *(To DC Jones)* Understood... *(To Peter)* Listen, Simon, got to go, far more important cases.

*(Lewis and Jones start to leave. Lewis then calls back over his shoulder at Peter)* You're free to leave, by the way – see yourself out, won't you?

*(Peter falls on his knees and faces the front.)*

**Peter** Oh Lord, what have I done?