

**Title:** When Peter Denied His Lord

**Passage:** Mark 14:66-72

## EXPOSITION

### Context of Passage:

Mark 14:53-54

And they led Jesus to the high priest. And all the chief priests and the elders and the scribes came together. And Peter had followed him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest. And he was sitting with the guards and warming himself at the fire.

- Proceedings before Sanhedrin (took about 3 hours in the middle of the night, around 1am)
- Purpose was already determined to put Jesus to death.

**Passage:** Mark 14:66-72

And as Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant girls of the high priest came, and seeing Peter warming himself, she looked at him and said, "You also were with the Nazarene, Jesus." But he denied it, saying, "I neither know nor understand what you mean." And he went out into the gateway and the rooster crowed. And the servant girl saw him and began again to say to the bystanders, "This man is one of them." But again he denied it. And after a little while the bystanders again said to Peter, "Certainly you are one of them, for you are a Galilean." But he began to invoke a curse on himself and to swear, "I do not know this man of whom you speak." And immediately the rooster crowed a second time. And Peter remembered how Jesus had said to him, "Before the rooster crows twice, you will deny me three times." And he broke down and wept.

### Introduction

Question: Can you remember a time when you denied the Lord Jesus? When you were unfaithful?

- when intimidated or fearful of circumstances

Question: Do you remember how you felt?

Question: How does Jesus respond to us when we fail/fall?

### Overview

I. Followed (v.53)

II. Denied (v.68, 70)

III. Remembered (v.72)

IV. Wept (v.72)

### I. FOLLOWED

**Mark 14:54**

***And Peter had followed him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest. And he was sitting with the guards and warming himself at the fire.***

*At a distance*

- near enough to see Jesus, but not near enough to be seen with Him.

*Peter had followed him*

- Why? Peter's love for Jesus.

Mark 14:29-31

Peter said to him, "Even though they all fall away, I will not." And Jesus said to him, "Truly, I tell you, this very night, before the rooster crows twice, you will deny me three times." But he said emphatically, "If I must die with you, I will not deny you." And they all said the same.

- Before we criticize Peter's collapse, also commend his courage.
  - Though he did follow at a distance, he still followed.

#### Mark 14:37-38

And he came and found them sleeping, and he said to Peter, "Simon, are you asleep? Could you not watch one hour? Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."

- Reality of struggle: spirit willing to follow Jesus vs. sinful flesh

#### Romans 7:14-15

For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am of the flesh, sold under sin. For I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate.

#### Romans 7:18-20

For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing. Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me.

#### 1 Corinthians 10:12

Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall.

## II. DENIED

#### Mark 14:66-67

***And as Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant girls of the high priest came, and seeing Peter warming himself, she looked at him and said, "You also were with the Nazarene, Jesus."***

*she looked at him*

- looked = examining intently

*one of the servant girls of the high priest*

- source of questioning came from the unexpected
- Likewise, temptations or challenges come from different sources.

#### Mark 14:68-69

***But he denied it, saying, "I neither know nor understand what you mean." And he went out into the gateway and the rooster crowed. And the servant girl saw him and began again to say to the bystanders, "This man is one of them."***

Each of the Gospels record this incident.

- Peter moved from the courtyard to close to the gateway
  - Perhaps to seek more anonymity
- Point: But a change of location is no guarantee to a change of heart

#### Mark 14:70

***But again he denied it. And after a little while the bystanders again said to Peter, "Certainly you are one of them, for you are a Galilean."***

#### Luke 22:59

And after an interval of about an hour still another insisted, saying, "Certainly this man also was with him, for he too is a Galilean."

#### John 18:26

One of the servants of the high priest, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, asked, "Did I not see you in the garden with him?"

**Mark 14:71**

***But he began to invoke a curse on himself and to swear, "I do not know this man of whom you speak."***

- "To invoke a curse on himself" = if I am lying, may God strike me dead.
- "To swear" = solemn pledge of truthfulness = I swear to God
- Peter gave his third denial with a curse

**III. REMEMBERED**

**Mark 14:72a**

***And immediately the rooster crowed a second time. And Peter remembered how Jesus had said to him, "Before the rooster crows twice, you will deny me three times."***

Luke 22:61

And the Lord turned and looked at Peter. And Peter remembered the saying of the Lord, how he had said to him, "Before the rooster crows today, you will deny me three times."

- Upon Peter's third denial with a curse, a rooster crowed and Peter's eyes meet with Jesus.
- "Looked" = not a quick glance but an intentional, long look

John 13:1

Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.

- Jesus' love for the disciples was continuous
- Jesus' look at Peter after Peter's denial included His love for Peter

Luke 22:31-32

"Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat, but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers."

- "your faith may not fail" = not that he would not never fail by word or deed but his faith
- "When you have turned again" = confidence in Peter's return

Jesus' love is real and steadfast.

Romans 8:38-39

For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Matthew 9:36

When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.

- Hymn: "There is a Savior" (<https://youtu.be/gRj-ZEPeDdA>)
  - Lyrics: "His eyes are mercy"

**IV. WEPT**

**Mark 14:72b**

And he broke down and wept.

Mark 14:29-31 (prior conversation)

Peter said to him, "Even though they all fall away, I will not." And Jesus said to him, "Truly, I tell you, this very night, before the rooster crows twice, you will deny me three times." But he said emphatically, "If I must die with you, I will not deny you." And they all said the same.

#### John 21:15-17 (Jesus' restoration of Peter)

When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." He said to him, "Feed my lambs." He said to him a second time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." He said to him, "Tend my sheep." He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" Peter was grieved because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" and he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep.

- In times of failure, we may be tempted to think God is done with us. The truth is God is faithful.

#### Philippians 1:6

And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

#### 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

#### John 21:9-10

When they got out on land, they saw a charcoal fire in place, with fish laid out on it, and bread. Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish that you have just caught."

- Two fires
  - Fire of denial (Peter warming at outside fire)
    - Made by man
    - One of sin and denial
  - Fire of repentance (breakfast fire)
    - Made by Jesus
    - One of restoration and love
- What's between the two fires?
  - The cross of Jesus

#### Proverbs 28:13

Whoever conceals his transgressions will not prosper, but he who confesses and forsakes them will obtain mercy.

#### 1 John 1:9

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.