Learning From Peter's Denial of Christ

Greg Kline · Mark 14:26–72

INTRODUCTION

- If you had to identify one apostle, one close disciple of Jesus, who quite often found his faith failing or lacking, it was Peter.
- If it can happen to Peter, the truth is it can certainly happen to me. If it can happen to Peter, it can certainly happen to any of us.

1 Peter Started With Pride

Mark 14:29–31; Proverbs 16:18; Matthew 18:1–4

- Even though they will all fall away, Lord, I will not. Peter started with pride.
- And we know what Proverbs chapter 16 says about that. Pride comes before destruction.
- Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.
- I don't have some sort of automatic status and not falling away.

2 Watch and Pray

Mark 14:32–42

- Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.
- Yes, Peter's spirit was willing to say, I will even die with you, Lord, but the flesh has a different story.
- When the test of life comes down hard, that's when we have to have prepared our decisions.
- Until then, we need to be watching and praying.

3 Peter Followed Him at a Distance

Mark 14:53–54; Matthew 10:26–33

- And Peter had followed him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest.
- But biblical Christianity denies self and follows Jesus.
- Peter's problem here, is he's afraid of the consequences of being a follower.
- And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell.

4 Sitting With the Guards, Warming Himself at the Fire

Mark 14:54; James 4:4; Mark 14:66–72

- Peter finds himself now with the very enemies of the cross.
- Whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.
- This is another example of putting ourselves in a vulnerable position.

- 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.

5 Peter Learned to Be Humble and Watchful

1 Peter 5:5–10

- If Peter can fall, I know I can fall. So what are we going to do to learn from that?
- Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility towards one another. For God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble.
- Be sober-minded. Be watchful. Your adversary, the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.
- We must recognize that our strength is not in self, but all from the Lord.

6 Be Bold in Our Faith, Different From the World

1 Peter 3:8–17; 1 Peter 4:1–5

- We need to be bold in our faith. Whereas Peter followed at a distance, as he was unwilling to claim the name of a follower of Christ.
- Always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you, yet do it with gentleness and respect.
- Me acting like a Christian marks me in this life, and I may, in fact, face persecutions and struggles because of it.
- We need to be different from the world.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **When we're put to the test, our decision will be made. It doesn't matter what we've done or where we're going, what we're going to do. And the moment of trial and temptation, will I confess Jesus? Or will I deny him?**

MY NOTES