

Mark 14:66-72 – Jesus endured 3 Denials for you

Broadus, Abbot, TSK, Calvin, Handfuls, Reinecker, PNT, GreekLexicon, Clarke, Geneva, Robertson, Vincent, Poole, Henry, Barnes, Brink, INT? Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: The account of Peter's denial is recorded by all 4 Gospels...and for good reason. When God mentions something 4 times he wants you to really pay attention. So today, hear from God of the 3 ways Peter denied Jesus.

Our headings are:

Denial of Jesus

Strong Denial of Jesus

Violent Strong Denial of Jesus

Our goals are: **That knowing what Jesus has done for sinners, that in turn you will be motivated to love him and not deny him.**

Denial of Jesus

66 Now as Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant girls of the high priest came. 67 And when she saw **Peter warming himself, she looked at him** and said, "You also were with Jesus of Nazareth." 68 But he denied it, saying, **"I neither know nor understand what you are saying."** And he went out on the porch, and **a rooster crowed.**

1. Peter stood at some distance to see what would happen to Jesus.

He was warming himself with the enemies' fire, and staying safe by pretending to be one of the enemies of Jesus.

2. A young slave girl looked directly (straight) at Peter and called him out as being a follower of Jesus.

Ironically, it was the enemies' fire that allowed the young girl to see his face and expose his sin of denying Jesus.

3. Peter denied knowing what she was talking about and even who she was talking about; he did the shuffle.

a. The one who said he would die for Jesus or go to prison for him a few hours before, pretended he didn't even know Jesus. He couldn't even take an insult!

b. Worse, Peter did not even have to have many witnesses to deny Jesus. He did not even have Herod or Pilate before him to deny Jesus. **He buckled at the testimony of a young slave girl,** the least member of Jewish society, and denied his Lord.

c. Worst of all, Peter was telling that young girl that Christ wasn't worth knowing!

4. And the rooster crowed.

5. Lessons:

a. Jesus came to die even for the ones who denied him.

b. You might deny the Lord from time to time, but he never, ever denies knowing you! Praise God for that!

c. Do you deny the Lord today? If you don't tell your boss you are a Christian and so can't work on Sundays, you are simply denying Jesus. So beware how you are standing, lest you fall suddenly. The strongest can fall!

Strong Denial of Jesus

69 And **the servant girl saw** him again, and began to say to those who stood by, "This is one of them."

70 But he denied it again...

1. Then the servant girl saw him again and told other people around that Peter was one of the disciples of Jesus.

2. But there is a variant in the text between Matthew and Mark.

Matthew claims that it was another servant girl and Mark suggests that it was the same servant girl.

Matthew 26:71 And when he had gone out to the gateway, **another girl saw him** and **said to those who were there**, "This fellow also was with Jesus of Nazareth." 72 **But again he denied with an oath**, "I do not know the Man!"

Well, which one is true? Both are true. There is no contradiction there. **The 1st servant girl and another servant girl and others too – many men,** confronted Peter. (Matthew 26:71). **They all accused Peter of being a disciple of Jesus.**

John 18:25 Now Simon Peter stood and warmed himself. Therefore **they said to him**, "You are not also one of His disciples, are you?" He denied it and said, "I am not!"

The point was, Peter denied the Lord at least 3X, but not limited to 3 persons!

3. Peter denied it a 2nd time and had to do it more strongly because the girls and the men nearby knew of it.

Peter had left his job to follow Jesus. He had been with Jesus for 3 ½ years. Jesus had been to his house. Jesus had healed his mother-in-law. He pledged loyalty to Jesus. He was commissioned by Christ. He ate with Jesus. He had just tried to kill a man to protect Jesus. **But when he saw prison bars he quickly denied knowing Jesus.** And notice that his denial was an oath. He

was calling God to witness that he was telling the truth.

Luke 12:9 "But he who denies Me before men will be denied before the angels of God.

He was ready to fight a few hours earlier...but when there was the threat of physical pain, he abandoned his commitment to Christ and strongly denied knowing him.

4. Lessons:

a. Christ came to die, even for the ones who strongly denied him. He did not hold grudges against Peter.

b. Thank God for his grace and election through Jesus Christ. You can never, ever be lost, though you might sinfully deny the Lord from time to time.

Luke 22:32 "But I have prayed for you, **that your faith should not fail**; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren."

c. When you ignore the Holy Spirit you expose yourself to much danger, so ask God to fill you with his Holy Spirit! Don't ever think you are immune from falling. You could fall from loving money too much... You could fall by marrying someone who is not a believer. (A public marriage to a non-believer is **a strong denial of Jesus.**) You could fall from being lazy.

1 Corinthians 10:12 Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.

So listen to the rooster crowing...the 1st time! Then let the world know you belong to him!

d. When you tell a lie and get caught, you have to tell a bigger lie to cover up the first lie. And there is no end! So just speak the truth. It is right and it will save you from much difficulty. From the drip comes the deluge – the flood! And speaking the truth honors Christ. People will see Christ in you and glorify him.

Violent Strong Denial of Jesus

70 ...And a little later those who stood by said to Peter again, "Surely you are one of them; for you are a Galilean, and your speech shows it." 71 Then he began to **curse and swear**, "I do not know this Man of whom you speak!" 72 A second time the rooster crowed. Then Peter called to mind the word that Jesus had said to him, "Before the rooster crows twice, you will deny Me three times." And when he **thought about it, he wept.**

1. About an hour later, multiple people (not just the girls and a those nearby) again accused Peter of being a disciple of Jesus.

And this time they offered proof. They knew from Peter's accent he was from Galilee. Maybe the kind of words he used showed where he was from. Maybe he used particular local expressions. Maybe it was his accent.

2. Peter then violently and strongly denied even knowing the Lord of his life.

In order to convince those around of this testimony, Peter called God to curse him if he were not telling the truth. Literally he was saying, "May my body and soul eternally perish in hell if I am not telling the truth." **And he knew he was lying!** He moved from **denial**, to **denial under oath**, to **denial with the invocation of curses**. There was no worse curse in life than the committing of one's soul to hell. Peter fell back into his old ways of life. This was the way fishermen spoke...this was not how a child of God spoke.

3. And then the rooster crowed, the late or 2nd crowing, about 3:00-4:00AM, and he remembered the words of Jesus that he would betray him.

Matthew only mentioned this one late crowing after Peter's 3rd betrayal. Mark included the earlier crowing. Luke adds that Jesus turned and looked towards Peter as if to say: "How's your self-boasting now, my friend?"

Luke 22:61 And the **Lord turned and looked at Peter**. And Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how He had said to him, "Before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times."

But more, I am sure Peter remembered the Lord's other words: "I will pray that you will be restored."

4. Peter's remembrance of the Lord's words, which resulted in conviction of sin, then reduced him to repentance and tears.

It seems it was more than the words of Jesus that caused him shame though. He saw Jesus alone – with no one to support him...and while he was preparing to die... And this was the one he was denying.

Tears aren't essential to repentance, but it usually shows the shame one feels for betraying the Lord.

Judas was sorry but it was not a godly sorrow that led to repentance. No wonder he killed himself. But Peter was truly sorry and it led to his restoration.

2 Corinthians 7:10 For **godly sorrow produces repentance** leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death.

Peter showed repentance and **the Lord made him further testify to his repentance**. He repented 3X for his 3X denial.

John 21:15 So when they had eaten breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of Jonah, **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." 16 He said to him again a second time, "Simon, son of Jonah, **do you love Me?**" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." He said to him, "Tend My sheep." 17 He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of Jonah, **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 all things; You know that I love You." Jesus said to him, "Feed My sheep.

Peter ultimately gave his life for his Lord, while Judas gave his life for himself. The Lord had already prayed for Peter.

Luke 22:32 "But **I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail**; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren."

5. Lessons:

a. Even for the strongest deniers Christ headed to the cross. He forgives his greatest deniers. What amazing love! But don't stay long in that state though. Don't stay like David for a year! There can be much suffering in the lives of those who deny the Lord.

b. You are a violent and strong denier of Jesus when you reject the discipline of the church, or when you advocate for an ungodly politician, or you deny the faith for advancement in your career.

c. Pray for those who are straying, who have denied the Lord by their actions. Though they are living in sin...hating, stealing, committing adultery, destroying their bodies...God can restore any! So pray!

d. Repent everyday. Let repentance be a part of your vocabulary. You will only repent when the Word of the Lord comes to mind! Read it. Memorize it. Teach it to your children. Give the Holy Spirit something to work with. It not only worked for Peter; it will work for you as well.

Conclusion:

Peter was too self-confident. He became careless and did not watch his step. So he fell into trouble. Peter was filled with infirmities. He got progressively worse in his denial of Jesus. But the Lord loved him and went to the cross for him. More, the Lord had already prayed for him. And he remembered the Lord's Words. So he was convicted and repented. The Lord strengthened him. Ultimately, Peter gave his life for the Lord.

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ:

1. Jesus kept his focus and went to the cross, even though he was betrayed, abandoned, and denied by his friends. Love drove him. Love for you drove him.

2. It is wonderful you have experienced that love, but don't become self-confident...and think you will be strong and never deny the Lord. Instead, feed your mind with the Word of God and of his love. This is the only daily spiritual exercise that will keep you strong. This is absolutely necessary for your children!

3. If you do deny the Lord, and you likely will when you forget to nourish your soul with his love seen on the cross, repent. Don't stay that way. He will always forgive you. He promised he will forgive you.

Finally: If you are not a Christian, you have denied and defied the Lord. You will go to hell. But if you ask God to make you his child because of Jesus, he will receive you as his child forever. He loves his children, all of them.