

## PETER'S FAILURE

--MARK 14:66-72--

### INTRODUCTION:

The New Testament and the gospel records make it clear that Peter was a genuine believer, who deeply loved the Lord Jesus. Yet on the same night that Judas betrayed Jesus, Peter denied Jesus. Not just once, but it was a repeated denial that kept occurring over a two-hour period of time, likely somewhere between one and four in the morning. On one hand this failure by Peter is for us a grim reminder of the weakness of the flesh and the severe consequences of sin in spite of the best intentions. On the other hand, this event should also be an encouragement to us regarding the forgiveness of God. Peter's sin was serious and blatant, but it did not take him beyond the reaches of God's mercy, grace, forgiveness, and restoration.

### I. PETER'S SELF-CONFIDENCE

- a. Peter's \_\_\_\_\_ had started hours before he ever entered the courtyard of the high priest and began to deny his Lord.
- b. The first thing was that Peter was \_\_\_\_\_. (Luke 22:31-33; Mark 14:29, 31)
- c. Second, Peter did not \_\_\_\_\_ carefully to Jesus' words, his pride not only blinded his mind, but it also deafened his ears.
- d. Third, Peter should have been \_\_\_\_\_ instead of sleeping.
- e. Fourth, Peter \_\_\_\_\_ before he thought. (Matthew 26:52-54)
- f. Finally, Peter should have \_\_\_\_\_ with his Lord.

### II. PETER'S DENIALS (Mark 14:66-72a)

- a. Mark's account of Peter's denials begins by stating that Peter was below in the \_\_\_\_\_.
- b. All four gospels record Peter's \_\_\_\_\_.
- c. John tells us that he was known to the high priest and had followed the soldiers also and because he was \_\_\_\_\_, he was allowed into the courtyard.
- d. When we last left Peter he was \_\_\_\_\_ himself by the fire that had been kindled in the courtyard. (John 18:15-17; Luke 22:56)

- e. Embarrassed and eager to escape, Peter left the fire and went out onto the \_\_\_\_\_, the covered entryway that led to the gate.
- f. Peter's \_\_\_\_\_ to the entryway corridor was short-lived.
- g. Even so, Peter continued to stay, wanting to know what was going to happen to \_\_\_\_\_. (John 18:26)
- h. Peter's final \_\_\_\_\_ of his Lord was the most intense and emotional. (Luke 22:61)

### III. PETER'S REPENTANCE (Mark 14:72b)

- a. As Jesus looked at Peter, he felt the full weight of his \_\_\_\_\_ and he remembered Jesus' words to him.
- b. It is without a doubt that Peter sinned, however, his true character is not seen in his denials but in his \_\_\_\_\_. (John 21:15-17)

### CONCLUSION:

If you are a believer you can identify with Peter, you can learn from him that though we may be redeemed, our flesh is still unredeemed and sinful, and we have to be constantly on guard against it. We have to be constantly putting it to death, and when it rears its ugly head and we give into it, then we must come to God in repentance. Peter's sin was serious and blatant, but it did not take him beyond the reaches of God's mercy, grace, forgiveness, and restoration. The same is true for us who are true disciples of Christ.

Peter was restored and went on to be a passionate and zealous preacher in the book of Acts, boldly and courageously proclaiming the gospel. Jesus said that He had prayed for Peter that after he was restored, he would strengthen his brothers in Christ. That prayer was answered, not only in Acts did he strengthen his brothers, but years later when Peter explained to persecuted Christians in Asia Minor that true faith cannot fail, even when severely tested.

Peter learned from his experience that pride and overconfidence in the flesh make Christians spiritually vulnerable and weak. But God will supply the power and grant victory to those who are humble, who depend only on Him, and are on guard in the face of temptation. (1<sup>st</sup> Peter 5:5-8)