

Peter Denies Christ

Mark 14:66-72

Context: After His arrest, Jesus is taken to the courtyard of the High Priest of the Temple. Mark now focuses his Gospel onto the behavior of Peter.

As we meditate on Peter's denial of Jesus...

I. _____ the visibility of one's faith (vs. 66-70)

- A. Looking at the gospel accounts, we see quite a multitude of people who recognized Peter as a disciple of Jesus:
1. The Servant Girl of the High Priest (Mark 14:66-68; John 18:17)
 2. Another girl (Mark 14:69; Matthew 26:71)
 3. According to Luke, he mentions a man who accompanied the second girl. (Luke 22:58)
 4. A group of bystanders (Mark 14:70) led by a relative of Malchus, the man whose ear Peter cut off (John 18:26).

II. _____ the seriousness of Peter's sin (vs. 71)

Peter's sins in this passage begin to grow exponentially.

1. First he lies and denies knowing Jesus.
2. Second, he tells a double lie to cover up his first lie: 1. He lied when he said that he did not know Jesus again. 2. He lied when he swore that he wasn't lying.
3. Third, he began to curse. He may have said something like, "May God curse me to hell if I am lying." or "If I am being dishonest, may God strike me dead right now."
4. Fourth, he began to swear. He began to swear oaths that he did not know Jesus. "If I am lying, I swear to uphold the Nazarite vow for seven years."

III. _____ the signs of spiritual breakdown (vs. 72)

Mark chapter 14 chronicles a path of spiritual breakdown that is as true a warning to us as it was to Peter:

1. Peter was Prideful (Mark 14:29)
2. Peter was Presumptuous (Mark 14:47)
3. Peter was Prayerless (Mark 14:33-38)