

Expositional Preaching from the Authorized Version of the Holy Bible
Current Book: The Gospel According to Mark – Message 70

2016 VISION: *Faithful in little things!*

Scriptures for Today: Mark 14:66-72 – Wednesday (day of the crucifixion); Peter's Denial

Title of Today's Message: Sin will take you farther than you want to go – *Life lessons from Peter!*

INTRODUCTION

Last week, we saw a **TIME** of *apparent* victory for the devil and his powers of darkness. Jesus Christ allowed evil religious leaders and their band of men to take Him away that the Scriptures might be fulfilled. Today, Peter will **deny Jesus** just as He said. We will learn a lot from Peter. It has been said that _____ will take you farther than you **want** to _____, sin will keep you longer than you **want** to _____, and sin will cost you far more than you **want** to _____. It is true! Please listen to God today. This is a day for all to be _____ with Him.

PREACHING NOTES

1. It is important to remember the _____ for Peter's **denial** of the Lord Jesus Christ.

- ✓ Peter was **so confident in himself** that he did not listen to Jesus' words of warning.

Mark 14:29	<i>"But Peter said unto him, <u>Although all shall be offended, yet will not I.</u>"</i>
Matthew 26:33-35	<i>"Though all men shall be offended because of thee, yet will I never be offended."</i>
Exodus 34:12	<i>"<u>Take heed to thyself</u>, lest thou make a covenant with the inhabitants...lest it be for a snare"</i>
Deuteronomy 4:9	<i>"Only <u>take heed to thyself</u>, and keep thy soul diligently, lest thou forget the things..."</i>
1 Corinthians 10:12	<i>"Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall."</i>
Philippians 3:3	<i>"For we are the circumcision, which worship God in the spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh."</i>

NOTE Sometimes, the longer we are Christians, the more difficulty we have in this area. The time you spend in the Bible daily is a good "*gauge*" to know how you are doing. If you do not "*need*" God, chances are good that you are about to fall. Confidence in the flesh is a recipe for disaster. When God speaks to us about our sin and changes needed, we need to listen!

- ✓ Peter was **sleeping** – when he was supposed to be watching and praying.

Mark 14:37	<i>"And he cometh, and findeth them sleeping, and saith unto Peter, Simon, sleepest thou?"</i>
1 Thessalonians 5:6	<i>"Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober."</i>
1 Thessalonians 5:17-18	<i>"Pray without ceasing. In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus"</i>

NOTE The time you spend in prayer with God daily is a good "*gauge*" to know how you are doing in this area of life. If you are not talking to God, then why would you say that you are His child? This is where we seem to be living as fools! We need to get on our faces and pray!

- ✓ Peter was **following Jesus afar off** – when he should have been close to Him.

Mark 14:54	<i>"And Peter followed him afar off, even into the palace of the high priest..."</i>
Deuteronomy 34:4	<i>"But ye that did cleave unto the LORD your God are alive every one of you this day."</i>
Acts 11:23	<i>"he came...exhorted them all, that with purpose of heart they would cleave unto the Lord."</i>

NOTE You are in trouble or you will have trouble in your life if you try to follow Jesus afar off. In addition, he is warming himself at the devil's fire – with the servants who opposed Christ in the garden! Many people who say they are Christians live their life on an "*island*" thinking that they will be just fine with one foot in the world and one foot in the church. Wrong!

2. Peter ultimately **denied** Jesus Christ _____ times **before the cock crew** the second time.

✓ **After he denied Jesus the first time** to one of the maids, the cock crew the FIRST time!

1 Corinthians 10:13 *"There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: But God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it."*

Lamentations 3:22-23 *"It is of the LORD's mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness."*

NOTE There is a reason why most people can relate so easily to Peter. We are just like him! At this point, the actual denial of Peter seems a bit anti-climactic. In this story, we often miss that Peter had a warning sign – to wake him up! There was a way of escape – he ignored it!

✓ **In order to deny Jesus the third time, he had to act like an unbeliever!**

Mark 14:71 *"But he began to curse and to swear, saying, I know not this man of whom ye speak."*

2 Corinthians 3:2 *"Ye are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read of all men"*

James 1:14-15 *"But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death. Do no err, my beloved brethren."*

1 John 5:21 *"Little children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen."*

NOTE What a sad day in Peter's life! He had come so far with his Lord. He was so confident in himself. If we are not careful, sin will take us farther than we want to go! Sin may take you to a point where you never thought you would be! Then one day you wake up and say to yourself, *How did I get here? What happened to me?* Wake up child of God! Is it in you?

✓ As much as Peter did not want to admit it, **he was the man** that Jesus (Word of God) had said.

Luke 22:61-62 *"And the Lord turned, and looked upon Peter. And Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said unto him, Before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice. And Peter went out, and wept bitterly."*

James 1:23-24 *"For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was."*

1 John 2:1a *"My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not."*

1 John 2:1b *"And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous"*

2 Peter 1:19 *"We have also a more sure word of prophecy: whereunto ye do well that ye take heed"*

NOTE Luke records that Jesus **turned** and **looked upon** Peter. Can you imagine how Peter must have felt? He would NEVER forget it! What have you done in your life where you have sinned against your Lord like that? Do you still have guilt over it? Peter tried to follow Christ in the flesh and failed. However, it was also Peter who recorded in his last words that we have a **MORE SURE WORD** of prophecy – the holy Bible! We need to take heed to that!

"Sin Will Take You Farther"

*As a child I foolishly turned God away,
Not knowing the heartache a sinner must face,
But God, in His goodness, has let me return,
To share with His children this lesson I've learned,*

Chorus:

*Sin will take you farther than you want to go,
Slowly, but wholly, taking control,
Sin will keep you longer than you want to stay,
Sin will cost you far more than you want to pay.*

*So with pleasures and promises, sin took control,
Leaving me dying, with nothing to show,
Gone were my loved ones, and my dearest friends,
Only a Saviour could love me again.*