

At The Dentist’s Office...

Good News: Following Jesus isn’t about your own power or control... or your own goodness or strength. It’s about his mercy and forgiveness. It’s about his power that he can work through you.

Why does Peter go from fighter to coward so quickly?

Sequence of Mark 14 for Peter

Peter promises to be faithful to the end and not fall away (vs. 29)

Peter can’t stay awake when Jesus asks him to (vs. 37)

Peter cuts off ear of the servant of the high priest (vs. 47)

Peter follows Jesus into the courtyard (vs. 54)

Peter denies Christ to the servant girl (vs. 68)

Peter denies Christ again, before the servant girl and others (vs. 70)

Peter *curses* “I do not know this man of whom you speak.” (vs. 71)

Swinging swords in the dark and lying to little girls

What is going on?

To actually follow Jesus, you have to follow him on his terms. It’s not “I’ll follow Jesus and I’ll follow him my way... it’s I’ll follow Jesus and I’ll follow him his way.”

John 21:18 “Truly, truly, I say to you, when you were young, you used to dress yourself and walk wherever you wanted, but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will dress you and carry you where you do not want to go.”

What makes Peter’s denial so spectacularly disastrous?

Not just a threefold denial

Verse 71, we must correct the translation. It is not reflexive – there is no “on himself.” Further, it requires a direct object because it is a transitive verb.

A better translation: “But he began to curse [someone, something] and to swear, ‘I know not this man whom you speak of.’” Who did he curse?

R.T. France says, “In this context, the natural object to be understood is Jesus... This understanding of the text... is the most probable sense of Mark’s words, though he has avoided too blatant offence by leaving the object of the verb unstated.”

Dr. Dan Doriani once said, “If you are trying to go to hell, what Peter does here is a really good model.”

The mercy of the rooster’s crow

The word broke down is a specific word that means, “give careful consideration of to the various implications of an issue, to reflect, to think deeply upon.”

What is Peter remembering? Mark 8:48, ‘For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of Man also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.’”

Why do we have to untangle Peter’s story from Jesus’ story?

Reason 1 → Richard Bauckham – Jesus and the Eyewitnesses

Did you ever notice that, from beginning to end, Peter is in every part of the book of Mark? Look at verse 66, where was Peter? He was “below.” This fascinating detail adds nothing to the story or its point. If it wasn’t for this comment, we wouldn’t know Jesus was being tried in a second story building of the courtyard. Why is it here? Because this story is written, clearly, from the perspective of Peter himself. From the pen of an eyewitness. Mark is the record of Peter’s eyewitness testimony of Jesus’ life.

In other words, this cannot be a mythical legend developed decades or centuries after Jesus’ life.

Finally, if you were trying to get someone to believe in the testimony of Peter, in his preaching... the only person who would dare to emphasize Peter’s sins would be Peter himself.

Reason 2 → Peter and Jesus are switching places

Questions for Personal Study

1. Is Peter relatable to you? How you are similar or dissimilar?
2. Is it hard for you to not be in control? Why or why not?
3. Is it compelling to you that Mark would be the eyewitness account of Peter? Why or why not?
4. Have you put your trust in Jesus, that he took your place?