



SERMON REFLECTION GUIDE

Luke, Part 65: Peter Denies Jesus - Luke 22:31-34, 54-62 - March 22, 2026

SERMON OUTLINE

Intro: **Peter the Bold** preaches with power at Pentecost (**Acts 2**), explicitly accusing the Jews of crucifying Jesus, and yet thousands repent and confess Christ and are saved. How is that possible and concerning our passage - how can it be Peter who gives the sermon?

The highlights of Peter's time with Jesus (confession, transfiguration, walking on water) are all followed by moments of weakness and confusion. **Peter the Bold** becomes **Peter the Weak**.

A. The Demand of Satan (**Luke 22:31-32**)

Remember: Jesus has just mentioned that someone will betray him (v. 21) and the disciples are worried about who it might be. (v. 23)

Each "you" in v. 31 is PLURAL - meaning that Satan wants to sift everyone - including you!
Each "you" in v. 32 is SINGULAR - Jesus has a specific prayer for recovery of Peter.

B. The Audacity of Peter and Prediction of Jesus (**Luke 22:33-34**)

Peter is absolutely certain he will not be the one who fails, while Jesus assures him that he will!
Important: None of our sins surprise Jesus! He knows our weakness ahead of time.

C. The 3 Denials (**Luke 22:54-60**)

Credit: Peter seems to be the only apostle of the 12 that is still "following" Jesus into his trials. Jesus and his disciples were probably quite noticeable and a big part of the Jerusalem rumor mill during the Passover given the things that Jesus has done in **Luke 19-21**.

This means that random people recognize Peter. Eventually, fear and self-preservation take over, and Peter denies that he knows Jesus.

Application: How do we also deny Jesus when we fail to speak/live according to God's Word?

The real test is not what we promise in church, but what we do/say in the real world.

All Christians have professed to "be with Jesus", would anyone recognize it?

D. The Lord Looks and Peter Weeps (**Luke 22:61-62**)

Only Luke records the fact that Jesus looks at Peter after the third denial.

What was in that look? Contempt? Condemnation? Consternation? Or Compassion?

"Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end." - John 13:1

Perhaps, all of Peter's ministry flashes in his mind, and is captured in Jesus's look. Yes, he weeps bitterly, but his repentance (**Phil. 1:6**) separates him from Judas. (**1 John 2:19**)

Remember: Jesus prayed that Peter would recover and strengthen his brothers (v. 32)

E. The Restoration of Peter (Various Texts)

The remainder of Peter's life is a testament that failure doesn't have to be the end.

The angel that greets the women at the tomb on Easter morning tells them to specifically tell Peter to meet Jesus in Galilee. (**Mark 16:6-7**)

John 21

- Going fishing signifies a return to a "pre-Jesus" life
- The fish miracle replays Peter's initial call to follow Jesus
- The charcoal fire symbolizes Peter's denials
- The threefold question "**Do you love me?**" Is meant to undo three denials
- The interaction finishes with a renewed call "Feed My Sheep/Follow Me", and a forecast of Peter's eventual crucifixion.

After you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you...will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. (1 Pet. 5:10)



SERMON REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. Why is Peter such a relatable person for us in the Bible? What about Peter stands out to you?
2. Why is it important to understand that our sins do not surprise Jesus? Do you ever think that your sins surprise and discourage Jesus?
3. What causes Peter to deny knowing Jesus, even after his diligence to defend and follow Jesus during the arrest and aftermath?
4. What might cause us to deny Jesus in our words or actions? Does anyone around us know that we are Christians or that Christ is a meaningful part of our lives?
5. Luke notes that Jesus looked at Peter after the denial - but the Bible doesn't give any further detail. What do you think was in that look? Why?
6. What is the difference in Peter and Judas?
7. How can we be sure that our failures and sins are not the end of our Christian story?