

Dustin Daniels | River Bible Church
Mark 14:66-72 | Peter's Denial of Jesus
November 14, 2021

WELCOME:

- Please turn your Bibles to Mark 14:66-72
- Bibles in back—our gift to you.

REVIEW:

Before my preaching break, we began studying the trials of Jesus Christ.

We looked at how the trials of Jesus were anything but legitimate.

Which of course was shocking because we discussed how the Jews had a perfect justice system because their jurisprudence came from God, summarized Deuteronomy 16:18-20.

+ **Deuteronomy 16:18**— *“Appoint judges and officials for your tribes in all your towns the Lord your God is giving you. They are to judge the people with righteous judgment.*

+ **Deuteronomy 16:19**— *Do not deny justice or show partiality to anyone. Do not accept a bribe, for it blinds the eyes of the wise and twists the words of the righteous.*

+ **Deuteronomy 16:20**— *Pursue justice and justice alone, so that you will live and possess the land the Lord your God is giving you.*

We also considered three things that must take place ^{for} to be regarded as an honorable and upright trial.

1. It had to be public (No private trials, no secrets, no bribes, everything is supposed to be public.)
2. The right of defense. (The defendant has the right to an attorney).
3. Evidence of more than one witness.

Jesus, BTW, had none of those things.
 Lastly, we also touched on Peter.

There was one verse on Peter that we are going to expound on today.

Mark 14:54— Peter followed him at a distance, right into the high priest's courtyard. He was sitting with the servants, warming himself by the fire.

INTRODUCTION:

Today's passage is infamous in the Gospels—

The topic for today's sermon is "*Peter's Denial of Jesus.*"

This narrative is in every Gospel, and we'll be pulling from every Gospel writer to give us a complete picture of the story.

I want to begin with this thought...

Peter's denial started long before this night in the courtyard of the High Priest.

Because one of Peter's biggest problems is his big mouth.

He talks way too much.

His ego is truly out of control.

Let's look in our rearview mirror just a few hours ago when Jesus is trying to teach Peter a very valuable lesson.

Is Pete Teachable?

+ **Mark 14:27**— Then Jesus said to them, "All of you will fall away, because it is written:

**I will strike the shepherd,
and the sheep will be scattered.**

+ **Mark 14:29**— Peter told him, "Even if everyone falls away, I will not."

Peter is telling Jesus He's wrong.

It's a good thing you and I don't do that today!

+ **Mark 14:30**— "Truly I tell you," Jesus said to him, "today, this very night, before the rooster crows twice, you will deny me three times."

+ **Mark 14:31**— But ^{Pete} he kept insisting, "If I have to die with you, I will never deny you." And they all said the same thing.

Fast forward to the Garden of Gethsemane.

And then Jesus asks Peter to pray, but instead, what's Peter do?

He chooses to sleep through prayer time.

It's a good thing you and I don't do that today!

+ **Mark 14:37**— "Simon, are you sleeping? Couldn't you stay awake one hour?"

Why would Peter need to pray? After all, he's the man!

He's the leader of the Twelve Disciples!

He's one of those guys that is a legend in his own mind.

He's got this whole situation under control...until he doesn't.

We know he doesn't because all we have to do is fast forward to Jesus' arrest ten verses later.

Judas shows up with a small army.

And because Peter has 1) a superman complex and 2) because he did not pray... what's he do in a situation that he is utterly unprepared for?

Mark 14:47— One of those who stood by ^{Peter} drew his sword, struck the high priest's servant, and cut off his ear.

Peter turns into this rogue Jason Bourne type character.

Peter's misdirected zeal nearly killed ~~three~~ ^{the church} people that night.

1. Himself.
2. It almost got Jesus killed before He was able to complete the Father's work.
3. And it nearly killed the true Church before it started.

Jesus' counsel to Peter came true...

Mark 14:50— Then they all deserted him and ran away.

KEYPOINT 1:

~~Peter boasted~~ ^{talked} too much, listened very little, refused to pray, acted too fast, and followed Jesus at a distance.

In other words, Peter has a bad case of the normals.

Just like you and me.

Peter represents all of us at one time or another in our own lives.

And today's Scripture passage is disturbing. *because of that reason.*

There is nothing more shocking than the betrayal of a good friend.

However, today's text is also a source of great encouragement.

How can it be both? Let's find out!

Please stand for the reading and honoring of God's Word.

SCRIPTURE: Mark 14:66-72 CSB

Mark 14:66— While Peter was in the courtyard below, one of the high priest's maidservants came.

Mark 14:67— When she saw Peter warming himself, she looked at him and said, "You also were with Jesus, the man from Nazareth."

Mark 14:68— But he denied it: "I don't know or understand what you're talking about." Then he went out to the entryway and a rooster crowed.

Mark 14:69— When the maidservant saw him again, she began to tell those standing nearby, "This man is one of them."

Mark 14:70— But again he denied it. After a little while those standing there said to Peter again, "You certainly are one of them, since you're also a Galilean."

Mark 14:71— Then he started to curse and swear, "I don't know this man you're talking about!"

Mark 14:72— Immediately a rooster crowed a second time, and Peter remembered when Jesus had spoken the word to him, "Before the rooster

crows twice, you will deny me three times." And he broke down and wept.

PRAY:

Keep me from the way of deceit and graciously give me your instruction. (Psalm 119:29)

EXEGESIS:

Mark 14:66— *While Peter was in the courtyard below, one of the high priest's maidservants came.*

Last week we saw what happened with Jesus going through the Jewish trials before the high priests—Annas and Caiaphas.

In today's text, we learn that while Jesus was going through His first two Jewish trials—Peter was also going through a trial of his own—at the same.

Now, let's remember that Peter and Jesus are in the home of both Annas, the former high priest, and Caiaphas, the current high priest—who happens to be Annas' son-in-law.

So they lived together?

Yes, they did—well, sort of.

Annas ran the Temple like a mob and he was the Mob Boss— so he was a very wealthy man and essentially lived in a palace.

-All of this is discussed in religion

In the first century, it was common for families to share the same home.

Their homes did not face the street like most of ours.

Their homes faced a courtyard.

So as you come from the street to Annas' home, you would first see the back of the house.

The back of the house included a high wall or fence.

There would be a gate, and sidewalk that went through the house.

The walkway would then open up to a large courtyard.

From the courtyard, you would see the rest of the house.

The house surrounded the courtyard.

The courtyard was the central focus, the central part of the home.

So it's from there, you would be able to see all the different rooms on the various floors of the home itself.

So it's likely that Annas had one section of the home on one side of the courtyard, and Caiaphas and his family had the other.

Back to...

Mark 14:66— ...one of the high priest's maidservants came.

So Mark introduces a maid into this narrative.

This woman is not a ruler with the Jews, so she has no status, no power, or authority whatsoever.

Her job was to watch the gate.

John tells us in his Gospel that he knew the high priest, so the maid let John in but not Peter.

John had to get permission to let Peter in. (John 18:15-16)

Mark 14:67— When she saw Peter warming himself, she looked at him and said, “You also were with Jesus, the man from Nazareth.”

We discussed how Peter doesn't only follow Jesus at a distance; he wants to follow Jesus at a distance AND be comfortable at the same time.

ITS A good thing you'd want to that today!
So Peter is trying to get warm, hanging out with everyone else.

He wants to keep a low profile.

However, he doesn't realize that the same fire that keeps him warm is the same fire that is lighting up his face for everyone to see.

So this maid stares at Peter.

She examines Peter.

We can relate to this, can't we?

You're out and about minding your own business, and you see someone you recognize, but you can't place him.

Ah, ha, and then she does!

And then she speaks directly to Peter in disgust, “*You also were with Jesus, the man from Nazareth.*”

Jesus is obviously the hot topic of conversation. *that right*

Everyone is talking about Jesus— and how Jesus put everyone flat on their back with two words—“I am.”

The soldiers are talking about the fight that Peter was in.

The instantaneous healing of Malchus' ear.

And Jesus is there!—The whole place is electric.

How does this maid recognize Peter?

Well, there's no doubt she's been at the Temple all week long, just like everyone else.

It's Passover!

It was probably at the Temple where she saw Peter with Jesus as Jesus was teaching.

Mark 14:68— *But he denied it: "I don't know or understand what you're talking about." Then he went out to the entryway, and a rooster crowed.*

The phrase "know and/or understand" is a loaded one.

During the feeding of the 5,000.

Mark 6:51-52—*They were completely astounded, because they had not understood about the loaves.*

During the time when Jesus was telling ^{Disciples} them exactly what would happen about His death, burial, and resurrection...

Mark 9:32—*But they did not understand this statement...*

We see here that many times the Disciples didn't know or understand Jesus.

And Peter's denial of Jesus at this moment is the pinnacle of his misunderstanding.

As soon as Peter denied Jesus for the first time, he ^{physically} moved to what he thought was a safer position, away from this maid.

~~As he moves away from her, look what happens!~~

Matthew's Gospel tells us that this was around the same time that Jesus was escorted across the courtyard from Annas' part of the house to Caiaphas'.

So what we have here is not only the leader of the Twelve Disciples, not only failing Jesus but now denying that he even knows Him.

It goes from bad to worse.

- This is the same Peter who walked on water.
- This is the same Peter who saw Jesus standing with Moses and Elijah during his Transfiguration.
- This is the same Peter that healed and cast out demons in Jesus' name.
- This is the same Peter where Jesus told him, ***“and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overpower it.”***

In other words, Peter's denial is a total denial of Jesus.

It's not up for discussion, so Peter physically moves away from her.

+ **Mark 14:68**—Then he went out to the entryway...

Peter says what he has to say and then walks back out the way he came in.

In other words, Peter was caught way off guard.

This maid totally surprised him.

He didn't expect it. He didn't plan for it.

KEYPOINT 2:

Character is displayed and demonstrated by what you're not prepared for.

In other words, your character is revealed by your spontaneous response to a surprise situation.

Peter may have been ready for the Temple Police to throw him in the same room with Jesus to testify as a witness...

But he was not ready for a maid to embarrass him.

I also want to point out some deep symbolism and irony.

Peter moving from the fire and light into the cold and darkness is somewhat ominous and intriguing.

It paints a dark visible picture of a spiritual reality.

Because as Peter changes locations, he moves further and further away from Jesus...

Just like he did at Jesus' arrest an hour ago.

Mark 14:68— *Then he went out to the entryway, and a rooster crowed.*

This is the first time the rooster crows.

It's almost as if ^{the rooster crowing} it's a warning shot from God.

Do you think Peter even heard it?

The text doesn't say, but I don't think so.

Why doesn't Peter hear it?

Because Pete is so hyper-focused on himself.

He's got his head down, looking out for number one.

And when you're only concerned about yourself, you've got tunnel vision.

You can't see or hear what else is going on around you.

So some time goes by, and Peter tries to regain his composure.

He doesn't leave—so that's good.

Peter is learning from his mistakes.
Here we see Peter's heart.

He chooses not to abandon Jesus entirely as he did before.

Wow, *Pete* this represents all of us, doesn't it? *he?*

This struggle between selfishness and righteousness.

We've all been there.

So Pete chooses to hide in what he thinks is a safer area by the doorway, where it's dark. *3 cd*

But it's also the area where this maid works...look at verse 69.

Mark 14:69— *When the maidservant saw him again, she began to tell those standing nearby, "This man is one of them."*

This woman is a little bulldog, isn't she?

Peter's retreat to safety was short-lived.

This time, she raises her voice for the people standing by to hear.

"This man is one of them."— This man is one of the men that we're talking about!

This man is the enemy!

Mark 14:70— But again he denied it.

Mark shows us that this is Peter's second denial.

Strike two

Mark 14:70— After a little while those standing there said to Peter again, "You certainly are one of them, since you're also a Galilean."

After a little while —Luke's Gospel specifically says this was about an hour later (Luke 22:59).

Peter's big mouth gave him away the first time

His big mouth gave Peter away from before, and now his mouth via his accent confirms it.

His mouth confirms that he's a liar.

Gets worse...

different person

John 18:26— One of the high priest's servants, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, said, "Didn't I see you with him in the garden?"

Awkward!

Earlier, we said, Peter thinks he's got this whole situation under control...until he doesn't.

Well, he officially does not have control of anything at this moment.

Peter is now like a scared cornered dog.

Peter loses it.

Peter's denials escalate.

This is an extended denial.

At this point, it's like it hasn't even registered with Peter what he's ^{saying,} doing.

Pause...Have you been there?

Running your own mouth, talking too much and not realizing how big a hole your digging?

How can everyone else see the lies for what it is but you at that moment?

It's a horrible place to be, and we've all been there.

Secondly, we also see the progression of sin.

Peter goes from a simple denial of Jesus, to denying his discipleship of Jesus, to cursing the name of Jesus.

Mark 14:71— Then he started to curse and swear...

To curse means to call down a ^{curse} curse from God on yourself.

To **swear** refers to making a promise in God's name.

What do cornered scared dogs eventually do? They lash out and bite.

And that's what Peter does.

Peter loses control of his emotions—this is in great contrast to Jesus. We'll see that next week.

we are to live our lives by ^{Biblical} convictions — not ^{fleshy} emotions
Peter's anger escalates.

Point #3

This time Peter reacts more loudly and brashly for everyone to hear.

His anger and volume are supposed to send a signal to everyone to leave him alone.

Anger is An interesting ~~the~~ emotion .
 Our anger is supposed to tell people that were in control—and they are to submit to our control, or else ...

Does it work?

It's at this moment, Peter doesn't even realize what he's saying or doing.

He's not thinking. ~~This is not premeditated.~~
 He's Angry! - No one can think clearly when you're MAD.

He is simply scared, embarrassed, and unprepared for this barrage of people asking him questions.

to yell.

Peter starts using crude language—after all he's been a fishermen all his life—so old habits die hard.

And then he calls down a curse on his own head.

-Damn!

Not a very wise thing to do, obviously.

He's asking God to kill him if he's lying.

"May God strike me dead if I know the man."

Peter is placing his hand on the Bible, raising his right hand and saying, *"I'm telling you the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth...so help me God!"*

He's telling God to perform an act of divine judgment if he's lying—which he is lying!

It's very possible that Peter didn't curse and swear one time— but many times to get people off his back.

Pause...think this through with me.

Months prior

Jesus asked the Disciples, "*who do you say that I am?*" Simon Peter answered, "*You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.*"

Nope, wait, I changed my mind... "*I don't even know the man*"

Wow.

How is it possible that God can speak through Peter one moment and a few months later Peter denies the same God?

Dang....maybe a better question is, "why are we still doing it today?"

Why are we still speaking out both sides of our mouth?

Mark 14:72—Immediately a rooster crowed a second time...

Unknown to Peter, because he was so caught up in trying to save his own skin.

Jesus was being led out from Caiaphas' home back through the courtyard.

It's at this moment...

Luke 22:61— Then the Lord turned and looked at Peter.

Can you imagine that look from Jesus?

At the same exact moment time the rooster crows?

Wow...what a coincidence, huh?

Can you feel the weight, embarrassment, pain, and shame of what Peter felt?

Mark 14:72— ...Peter remembered when Jesus had spoken the word to him, "Before the rooster crows twice, you will deny me three times." And he broke down and wept.

What caused Peter to weep?

His lies? His denials? His cowardice? All the above?

KEYPOINT 3:

It's only the Word of God that convicts of sin and brings true repentance.

Peter did not weep until he remembered what Jesus had said.

This event leveled Peter. — ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

Peter dropped completely out of the picture until after the crucifixion.

Only Jesus brings Peter back into the fold—so that God can finish what God started through Peter.

John 21:17— He asked him the third time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" Peter was grieved that he asked him the third time, "Do you love me?" He said, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." "Feed my sheep," Jesus said.

Do you think Pete ever forgot that conversation?

PREACH:

Once again, we have so many lessons to apply to our own lives today.

And the first lesson is —how do we not go where Peter went?

In other words, let's learn from Peter's mistakes this morning. *3 Apply*
them to our lives today.

This narrative is utterly embarrassing and shameful to Peter—

But it does provide hope. I want to touch on two things.

- 1. We must recognize, admit and confess as sin—that if Peter, of all people, can deny Jesus, then so can we.
- 2. Let's realize that Peter set himself up for failure.

How?
Peter ~~boasted~~ boasted too much, listened very little, refused to pray, acted too fast, and followed Jesus too far away.

If you want to learn about the wisdom of God? The power of your mouth.
Proverbs 11:2—When arrogance comes, disgrace follows, but with humility comes wisdom. *- 2 coins*

KEYPOINT 4:5
Life is full of humility and humiliation.

Unfortunately, Peter did not choose humility and God humiliated him because of it.

Today, we have that choice as well.

God has begun testing His true Church in this area like never before. *of humility - on a world-wide scale*

I've been saying that we are now living in a very new world for the past year.

And with each passing day, I'm more and more convinced of it.

We can all agree that we live in a very different world than two years ago.

There is now an urgency to our lives.

If you know your Bible and check the news, you know this.

KEYPOINT 6:

The world is not falling apart; it's prophetically falling into place.

We live in a very special and specific time of joy and hope—not fear.

I was making coffee at home when this phrase crossed my mind.

“Clarion Call”

I thought, that's weird; I've heard the term before but have never used it myself.

So I did some homework.

In the OT, this concept of a Clarion Call was a blast of trumpets that signaled three things:

1. To bring people together. *for a specific purpose*
2. To warn them of danger, *- to prepare*
3. To announce the arrival of a king.

It seems that God is doing all three at the same time today.

God is bringing His true church together, warning them of the danger's of mankind, and at the same time announcing His arrival.

Dear friends, this call—is veiled in all the worldly events—is a summons for the Church.

Please don't ignore it.

Our country will never return from this...but Jesus will return.

Maybe in our lifetime. If we're lucky!

Dear friends, I'm not a prophet; I'm a pastor.

And a pastor does three main things.

1. Teach the Word
2. Preach the Gospel
3. Protect the Sheep.

So please allow me to put my sheepdog hat on for a moment and get very specific.

You will be tried and tested by the world— just like Peter.

The wrath of man is upon us.

The wrath of God is soon to come—but we won't be here for that.

How?

Today, we are living in a world where most governments [around the world] are passing legislation on mandatory healthcare.

We all want great healthcare.

But we all know that the issue isn't the healthcare—it's the mandate.

It doesn't matter what side of the fence you're on w/ the vaccine.

The question in front of many of us today and the near future is—How will you respond if you don't choose to comply to the mandate?

Are you going to live out your Biblical convictions or let your fleshly emotions over take you?

- *How are you going to respond...*
- You're not allowed into the grocery store?

- You're unable to renew your driver's license?
- They cut off your social security?
- You're unable to vote?
- You're terminated from your job employment?

Please prepare for these things today—so you're not surprised tomorrow.

worldly These questions are precursors to questions about your faith.

For example, did you know that there are states writing legislation mandating churches to card every person to make sure they have the COVID Passport. *To Come? Washp.*

If you don't have the Passport, *they say...* you can't go to church... ~~so they say.~~

BTW...RBC will never do that.

How do we prepare for these things and not deny our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ? Five things:

1. Read the Word of God by the Spirit of God.—Tithe your time.

2. Pray for your friends and family who do not know the Lord.

3. Engage and invest in your church family like never before. *the church is the only thing that is eternal.*

Hebrews 10:24—And let us consider one another in order to provoke love and good works,

Hebrews 10:25—not neglecting to gather together as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging each other, and all the more as you see the day approaching.

What's THE DAY? The Lord's return. It's called the Rapture.

Just as God saved Noah the boat, God has given the church the Rapture.

4. Pray for the rapture.

*—the second to last verse in all of scripture says,
"Amen, Come Lord Jesus!"*

There's no fear in this—there is joy in knowing that this life is as bad as it gets if you're a child of God.

If you're not a child of God—this life is tragic & it only gets worse from here.

5. Practice your 3 Circles. Why?

Because of what Jesus told Peter—"Feed my sheep."

1 Peter 3:15—give a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you.

Dear friend, are you concerned about the social sickness of the world more than changing the hearts of people in the Verde Valley.

Do you talk more about politics than the hope that is in you?

Make no doubt about it, God is using all of these social ills to draw the true church back to Himself.

Dear friends, don't get caught off guard—like Peter.

You must know that there are consequences if you are a Christian and you deny Christ..

Matthew 10:32—Therefore, everyone who will acknowledge me before others, I will also acknowledge him before my Father in heaven.

Matthew 10:33—But whoever denies me before others, I will also deny him before my Father in heaven.

It's only by God's grace that Jesus brought Pete back.

Yes, Peter denied Jesus—but Peter eventually learned how to deny himself and pick up his own cross.

We too will have choices and chances to either affirm or deny Christ in the very near future...until the Rapture happens.

My prayer is that, we as a church can live this out.

Romans 1:16—*For I am not ashamed of the Gospel because it is the power of God for salvation*

PRAYER

LORD'S SUPPER

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