

Journey to the Cross

(3) Peter's Denial

Scriptures quoted:

Luke 22:31-34; 54-62; Matt. 26:31-35; 69-75; Mk. 14:27-31; 66-72; Matt. 16:13-20; John 18:15-18; 25-27; 1 Cor. 10:12.

- Invite four readers to read the gospel accounts. In which ways do the accounts differ?
- Have you ever been overconfident about something which you later regretted? In which way was the saying 'pride comes before a fall' true of Peter?
- Why do we all love Peter so much? In which ways can you relate to him?
- Read Luke 22:31-32. What great truths are found in these two verses? In which ways are you encouraged by this Scripture?
- Jesus could have prayed for Peter not to fail at all rather than his faith (ultimately) not failing? What might this teach us?
- Do you recognise the spiritual nature of our battle? Is this something that you are aware of on a day to day basis?
- How do you think Peter would have felt when Jesus turned and looked at him (Luke 22:61)?
- Have you ever denied the Lord in a way that you later/immediately regretted? How did it make you feel?
- What other, more subtle, ways do we deny the Lord, other than the obvious manner in which Peter denied Him?

PRAYER: (adapted from Ken Gire's *Moments with the Savior*)

Dear Lord Jesus,

Thank you for Peter. He was a great man. He loved you so much. He left everything to follow you. In your name he healed the sick, cast out demons, and preached the kingdom. For three and a half faithful years he stood beside you. And when the soldiers came to take you away, he stood up for you. When others dissented you, he followed all the way to the temple courtyard.

We confess that we would have never made it that far.

Help us not to pass judgment on him, Lord. Rather, may his great and fervent love for you pass judgment on us.

Help us to see that we deny you in so many areas of our lives, in so many ways, and at so many different times during the way.

When I am too busy to pray, I deny that you are at the centre of my life.

When I neglect your Word, I deny that you are competent to guide my life.

When I worry, I deny that you are Lord of my circumstances.

When I turn my head from the hungry and the homeless, I deny that you are a God of mercy who has put me here to be your hands and your feet.

When I steal something from another person to enrich or enhance my life — whether that be something material or some credit that is rightly due to another, which I have claimed for myself—I deny that you are the source of all blessings.

Forgive, Jesus, for all those quiet ways, known only to you, I have denied you.

Help me to pray for and encourage others the way you did for Peter. Even during those times when they may in some way deny our friendship. Especially, Lord, during those times.

Thank you for all those times when you have prayed for me that my faith might not fail.

There is no telling how many times I have been rescued from Satan's hand because you stood beside me. And thank you, most faithful of friends, that no matter how terribly I have failed you, I can always look into your eyes, and there find forgiveness."

Amen