

## Causes Of Peter's Denial

Mark 14:66-72

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**Peter's denial of Jesus is found in all four Gospels**

- Matthew 26:69-75 – "I do not know the man"
- Mark 14:66-72 – "I do not know this man of whom you speak"
- Luke 22:55-62 – "I do not know him"
- John 18:15-18, 25-27 – "Peter again denied it"

**It began earlier that evening.**

- Mark 14:26-31 – "You will all fall away"

**This series of events shook Peter's faith.**

**Satan had a part but so did Peter.**

## Causes Of Peter's Denial

**Following Jesus's resurrection, Peter reasserts his faith in Jesus**

- John 21:15-19 – "you know that I love you"
- Then, following Jesus' ascension, Peter became a bold leader, faithfully defending the Lord throughout his life (mostly).
  - cf. Galatians 2:11-14 – "he stood condemned"

**What can we learn from Peter to keep us from denying Jesus?**

## Why did Peter deny Jesus?

**He was overconfident**

- Mark 14:27-29 – "If I must die with you, I will not deny you"
- Even after Jesus told him what would happen, he continued in his overconfidence (as did the others).
- Peter's sincerity is not in question.
  - John 18:10 (also Luke 22:50-51) – "having a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's servant ..."
- Overconfidence plus pride got him in trouble.

## Why did Peter deny Jesus?

**He did not pay attention to the warnings**

- Jesus told Peter it was going to happen.
  - Did he just ignore the warnings?
  - Mark 14:68 – "... the rooster crowed"
  - Didn't he hear the rooster crow?
- Had he heeded the warnings, would matters have been different?

## Why did Peter deny Jesus?

**He followed Jesus from a distance**

- Luke 22:54 – "... Peter was following at a distance"
  - He was concerned but, like the rest, he had left Him in the garden.
  - Why follow at a distance?
  - What happened to his initial boldness in the garden to keep him from openly defending the innocence of Jesus now?
- cf. Romans 10:6-9 – "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart"

## Why did Peter deny Jesus?

### He warmed himself in the camp of the enemy

- John 18:18 – “Peter also was with them”
- He was in “enemy territory” now.
- He was cold and there was a fire. He made his way to the fire surrounded by enemies of Jesus.
- Being there opened him up to greater risks of being challenged and attacked.
- When in Satan’s territory, we are at greater danger of being exploited by him.
- cf. I Corinthians 15:33 – “Do not be deceived”

## Why did Peter deny Jesus?

### He failed to continue to defend Jesus

- The result is he denied Jesus three times.
- Here is where his courage failed.
- Each time, his denials became more intense and offensive.
  - That is the nature of a lack of courage when pressured.
  - When challenged, we will make excuses.
- cf. John 15:18-23 – “... they have no excuse for their sin”

## Will we deny Jesus?

### Are we overconfident?

- Pride
  - A dangerous attitude
  - It may put us in a situation where we are more vulnerable.
- Proverbs 16:18 – “Pride goes before destruction”
- I Corinthians 10:12 – “take heed lest he fall”
- James 4:6, 10 – “God opposes the proud”
- cf. James 1:22-25 – “he will be blessed in his doing”

## Will we deny Jesus?

### Are we alert to warnings around us?

- We live in a dangerous and ungodly world.
  - Overconfidence may cause us to let down our guard.
  - We may fail to see the warnings of spiritual danger.
- I Peter 5:8 – “Be sober-minded; be watchful”
- I Corinthians 16:13 – “Be watchful, stand firm in the faith”

## Will we deny Jesus?

### How close am I to Jesus?

- We cannot “sort of” follow Jesus.
- He demands total commitment.
- Luke 9:23 – “... take up his cross daily ...”
- Galatians 2:20 – “I have been crucified with Christ”
- James 4:8 – “Draw near to God”
- Hebrews 2:1 – “... we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard”

## Will we deny Jesus?

### Who are we associating with?

- The farther we drift from Jesus, the closer we drift to the world.
- We may begin to prefer the ungodly.
  - They will draw us father away.
  - II Corinthians 6:14 – “... what portion does a believer share with an unbeliever”
  - I Corinthians 15:33 – “Bad company ruins good morals”
  - Proverbs 6:27 – “Can a man carry fire next to his chest and his clothes not be burned”

## Will we deny Jesus?

### Are we willing to stand up for Him?

- If worldliness has crept in, standing up for Jesus becomes far more difficult.
- We are called to be courageous.
  - I Corinthians 16:13 – “stand firm in the faith”
  - II Timothy 1:7 – “God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power ...”

## Will we deny Jesus?

### How much time do we spend with His word?

- The more time we spend in Bible study and prayer, the stronger our faith will be.
- Hebrews 2:1-4 – “... we must pay much closer attention ...”
- Acts 20:31-32 – “... the word of his grace, which is able to build you up ...”
- Acts 17:10-12 – “examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so”

## Conclusion

- Thankfully, Peter repented of his overconfidence and pride
- Matthew 10:32-33 – “I also will acknowledge before my Father ...”
  - Jesus warned us that we can either confess Him or deny Him.
  - Whatever one we choose will have consequences.

## Obedying The Gospel

### Hear the Word of God

- James 1:21 – “... receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.”

### Believe the Gospel message about Jesus

- I John 3:23-24 – “... that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ ...”

## Obedying The Gospel

### Repent of your sins

- Acts 3:19 – “Repent therefore, and turn again, that your sins may be blotted out”

### Confess that Jesus is the Son of God

- Romans 10:9-10 – “... with the mouth one confesses and is saved”

## Obedying The Gospel

### Be immersed in water

- Acts 2:38 – “Repent and be baptized every one of you ...”

### Remain faithful

- I Corinthians 15:1-2 – “if you hold fast to the word I preached to you – unless you believed in vain”