

The Denial

Getting Ready For Easter

Mark 14:27-31, 37-38, 54, 66-72

Anthony Grove Baptist Church

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March 13, 2016



Mark 14:27–31

²⁷ “You will all fall away,” Jesus told them, “for it is written: “ ‘I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered.’ ²⁸ But after I have risen, I will go ahead of you into Galilee.” ²⁹ Peter declared, “Even if all fall away, I will not.”



³⁰ “I tell you the truth,” Jesus answered, “today—yes, tonight—before the rooster crows twice you yourself will disown me three times.” ³¹ But Peter insisted emphatically, “Even if I have to die with you, I will never disown you.” And all the others said the same.)



Mark 14:37–38³⁷ Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. “Simon,” he said to Peter, “are you asleep? Could you not keep watch for one hour? ³⁸ Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak.”



Mark 14:54

54 Peter followed him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest. There he sat with the guards and warmed himself at the fire.



Mark 14:66–72

⁶⁶ While Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant girls of the high priest came by. ⁶⁷ When she saw Peter warming himself, she looked closely at him. “You also were with that Nazarene, Jesus,” she said. ⁶⁸ But he denied it. “I don’t know or understand what you’re talking about,” he said, and went out into the entryway. ⁶⁹ When the servant girl saw him there, she said again to those standing around, “This fellow is one of them.”



70 Again he denied it. After a little while, those standing near said to Peter, "Surely you are one of them, for you are a Galilean." 71 He began to call down curses on himself, and he swore to them, "I don't know this man you're talking about."



72 Immediately the rooster crowed the second time. Then Peter remembered the word Jesus had spoken to him: "Before the rooster crows twice you will disown me three times." And he broke down and wept.-- (NIV)



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1. Three Stages to Spiritual Decline.

A. Avoid The Stage of Pride.

Mark 14:31³¹ But Peter insisted emphatically, "Even if I have to die with you, I will never disown you." And all the others said the same.-- (NIV)



Proverbs 16:18

**18 Pride goes before
destruction, a haughty
spirit before a fall.-- (NIV)**



1 Corinthians 8:1-2

¹ Now about food sacrificed to idols: We know that “We all possess knowledge.” But knowledge puffs up while love builds up. ² Those who think they know something do not yet know as they ought to know.-- (NIV)



B. Avoid The Stage of Presumption

Mark 14:37–38³⁷ Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. “Simon,” he said to Peter, “are you asleep? Couldn’t you keep watch for one hour? ³⁸ Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.”-- (NIV)



1. He Was Strong Enough Without Devotions.

Mark 14:38³⁸ Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.”-- (NIV)



2. He Could Follow From A Distance.

Mark 14:54 ⁵⁴ Peter followed him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest. There he sat with the guards and warmed himself at the fire.-- (NIV)



3. Avoid The Stage of Pressure.

Mark 14:66–68 ⁶⁶ While Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant girls of the high priest came by. ⁶⁷ When she saw Peter warming himself, she looked closely at him. “You also were with that Nazarene, Jesus,” she said. ⁶⁸ But he denied it. “I don’t know or understand what you’re talking about,” he said, and went out into the entryway.-- (NIV)



2. Two Steps To Dedication.

Luke 22:32³² But I have pleaded in prayer for you, Simon, that your faith should not fail. So when you have repented and turned to me again, strengthen your brothers.”-- (NLT)



A. Be Certain Your Repentance Is Sincere.

**Matthew 27:3³ When Judas, who had betrayed him, realized that Jesus had been condemned to die, he was filled with remorse. So he took the thirty pieces of silver back to the leading priests and the elders.--
(NLT)**



1.) He Repented Because of the Lord's Look.

Luke 22:61 ⁶¹ The Lord turned and looked straight at Peter. Then Peter remembered the word the Lord had spoken to him: "Before the rooster crows today, you will disown me three times."-- (NIV)



2.) He Repented Because of the Lord's Word.

Mark 14:72⁷² Immediately the rooster crowed the second time. Then Peter remembered the word Jesus had spoken to him: "Before the rooster crows twice you will disown me three times." And he broke down and wept.-- (NIV)



B. Be Certain Your Forgiveness Is Sure.

John 21:15¹⁵ When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" "Yes, Lord," he said, "you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my lambs."-- (NIV)



Mark 8:38

38 If anyone is ashamed of me and my message in these adulterous and sinful days, the Son of Man will be ashamed of that person when he returns in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”-- (NLT)



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