

“Truly I tell you,” Jesus told Peter,  
“this very night, before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times.”  
Matthew 26:34

Here Christ voices a fatalistic attitude toward relationships.  
He anticipates betrayal, abandonment, disappointment.  
More than that, Jesus *expects* it. He is in fact *certain* of it.

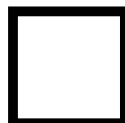
The name Peter means “rock” or “stone.” Jesus, who spent the earliest part of his childhood in Egypt, tells Peter that he is the rock upon which Jesus will build his church. A pyramid is a stone building with a temple-like function. Four triangles converge on an apex in a pyramid. In the Gospels, three different passages describe nine crimes that Peter commits, which produce the fourth triangle of Christ’s dire prediction above, in which he confesses to a hopeless attitude towards love. Each of the three passages is illuminated by comparing them to others.

1. Consider the events in the Garden of Gethsemane, which features among other things three disciples, including Peter, falling asleep three times while Christ suffers ([Matthew 26:36-56](#), [Mark 14:32-50](#), [Luke 22:39-53](#), and [John 18:1-12](#)), in light of the Parable of the Good Samaritan in [Luke 10:25-37](#).
2. Consider Peter’s three denials about being a follower of Christ ([Matthew 26:69-75](#), [Mark 14:66-72](#), [Luke 22:55-62](#), and [John 18:16-18, 25-27](#)) in light of the Parable of the Talents ([Matthew 25:14-30](#)), which features the burying of something valuable.
3. Consider Christ’s three requests for Peter to feed his sheep in [John 21:15-17](#) in light of the three parables of Lost Things (sheep, coins, and a prodigal son) in [Luke 15:1-32](#), as well as the Greatest Commandment ([Matthew 22:36-40](#)).

The base of the pyramid

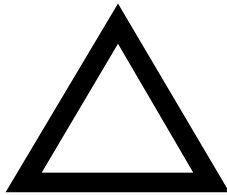
Fatalistic attitude:  
“You will disown me”.

Denials



Not Staying Awake

“Do you love me?”



“Then they seized him and led him away, bringing him into the high priest's house, and Peter was following at a distance. And when they had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and sat down together, Peter sat down among them. Then a servant girl, seeing him as he sat in the light and looking closely at him, said, ‘This man also was with him.’ But he denied it, saying, ‘Woman, I do not know him.’ And a little later someone else saw him and said, ‘You also are one of them.’ But Peter said, ‘Man, I am not.’ And after an interval of about an hour still another insisted, saying, ‘Certainly this man also was with him, for he too is a Galilean.’ But Peter said, ‘Man, I do not know what you are talking about.’ And immediately, while he was still speaking, the rooster crowed. And the Lord turned and looked at Peter. And Peter remembered the saying of the Lord, how he had said to him, ‘Before the rooster crows today, you will deny me three times. And he went out and wept bitterly.”

Luke 22:54-62

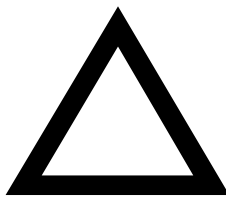
*pyramid*

from Greek pyr (genitive pyros) "fire, funeral fire"

"middle; being the middle part or midst; being between, intermediate,"

“they had kindled a fire 🔥 in the middle of the courtyard and sat down together”

Luke 22:55



So when they had eaten breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me more than these?” He said to Him, “Yes, Lord; You know that I love You.” He said to him, “Feed My lambs.” He said to him again a second time, “Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?” He said to Him, “Yes, Lord; You know that I love You.” He said to him, “Tend My sheep.”

He said to him the third time, “Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?” Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, “Do you love Me?” And he said to Him, “Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You.” Jesus said to him, “Feed My sheep.”

John 21:15-17

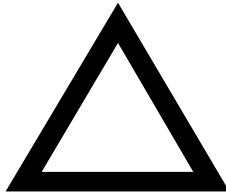
Then some of the scribes and Pharisees told Jesus, “Teacher, we want to see a sign from you.”

But he replied to them, “An evil and adulterous generation craves a sign. Yet no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah, because just as Jonah was in the stomach of the sea creature for three days and three nights, so the Son of Man will be in the heart of the earth for three days and three nights. The men of Nineveh will stand up at the judgment and condemn the people living today, because they repented at the preaching of Jonah. But look—something greater than Jonah is here! The queen of the south will stand up and condemn the people living today, because she came from so far away to hear the wisdom of Solomon.

But look! Something greater than Solomon is here!”

Matthew 12:38-42

The Great Pyramid of Giza in Egypt is larger than Solomon’s temple was.  
And South of it.



And they went to a place called Gethsemane. And he said to his disciples, "Sit here while I pray." And he took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be greatly distressed and troubled. And he said to them, "My soul is very sorrowful, even to death. Remain here and watch." And going a little farther, he fell on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. And he said, "Abba, Father, all things are possible for you. Remove this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will." And he came and found them sleeping, and he said to Peter, "Simon, are you asleep? Could you not watch one hour? Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." And again he went away and prayed, saying the same words. And again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were very heavy, and they did not know what to answer him. And he came the third time and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? It is enough; the hour has come. The Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Rise, let us be going; see, my betrayer is at hand."

Matthew 14:32-42

"And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it."

Matthew 16:18