

The Last Week Of Jesus' Life - Peter Denies Jesus

Sunday PM 10/20/19

Introduction:

Jesus warned the disciples of their upcoming trial, *Matthew 26.31-35*. We want to specifically examine Peter at this time, *Luke 22.31-32*.

I) Jesus Foretold Peter's Denial, *John 13.37-38*

A) Peter responds with supreme confidence, *Mark 14.29-31*

1. There is real danger in over confidence, *1 Corinthians 10.12*
2. None of us are above temptation. Families and marriages have ended because people were overly confident.
3. If we don't take the warning seriously we won't take the next verse seriously, *v. 13*.

B) Peter ignored the warning.

1. The warning "take heed" is used 55 times in the Bible
2. The best warning devices will do no good if we ignore it.

II) Peter is willing to die for Jesus, *John 18.10-11*

A) Despite the incredible odds Peter is willing to go to battle

1. Jesus stops Peter and even attaches the ear of the servant, *Luke 22.50-51*.

2. From this point on Peter is different

B) Why was Peter willing to die at this time and later on deny Jesus?

1. Some people are willing to be crucified with Christ as long as it meets their criteria.
 - a. We are to take up our cross daily, *Matthew 10.38*
 - b. We are to deny ourselves, *Matthew 16.24*
2. Some have no problem attending services but do not want to deny themselves of sinful pleasures.
3. Some are good to their neighbors but do not want to worship God, etc.
4. We can not pick and chose our crosses, *Galatians 2.20*

III) Peter followed Jesus from a distance, *Mark 14.53-54*

A) Peter could see Jesus, he was inside the High Priest's Palace or house

1. Peter was near a fire, this was a court yard area, *John 18.15-16*
2. Peter was a spectator and no longer a participant.
3. Peter had not totally run away but he was not close either.

B) Many Christians are in the place of Peter

1. Just enough religion to be miserable
 - a. Not faithful (*Hebrews 10.25*); not reading their Bibles (*Acts 17.11*); not wearing

modest clothing (*1 Timothy 2.8-9*); not being an example (*Matthew 5.13-16*).

2. What if every member of this congregation was just you and I?
3. Would there be enough salt, enough light to light this building.

IV) Look at Peter's denials

- A) First denial, *Matthew 26.70; Mark 14.68; John 18.17*
- B) Second denial, *Matthew 26.72; Luke 22.57; John 18.25*
- C) Third denial, *Matthew 26.74; Mark 14.71*
- D) Once we start denying Jesus it is difficult to turn around

V) Jesus knew what Peter had done, *Luke 22.61*

- A) Imagine how Peter felt, three times denying Jesus
- B) God's knows our every move, our strengths and weaknesses and so does Satan.
 1. We need to be honest with ourselves about what we can and can not resist.
- C) If you had to face Jesus today would you be joyful or would you cry?

Conclusion:

Fortunately Peter turned his life around to serve God. How about you?