

**Mark 14:66-72 — “Peter’s Denials: The Dangers of Self Confidence & the Greatness of Christ’s Graciousness”**

Why did Peter fail? His self-confidence made him weak. He slept in the Garden—when he ought to have been watching. Then he drew his sword to defend his Master. His next mistake was in following Jesus afar off. His last error was in joining the company by the fire, when he came in. The denial was already more than half made, when he sat down among the officers, trying to appear as one of them. After all this, it was easy then, when the maid teased him with being of the Galilean's party, to deny it.

Against the pitiful weakness and cowardliness of Peter—shine the faithfulness and graciousness of the Master! He heard it all—the denial thrice repeated, and the oaths and curses—He heard it all—but loved on! It was this marvelous forbearance, which saved Peter. It was the Master's look, which saved him. (J.R. Miller)

**\*Watch Out & Be on Guard Against these 5 deadly plagues:**

- (1) Self **DEPENDENCE** - I’ve got it myself! I rely on my power.
- (2) Self **IMPORTANCE** - I’m the best; It’s about me; I live for myself and my happiness.
- (3) Self **INDEPENDENCE** - I have the resources to do it myself; I don’t need help.
- (4) Self **GOVERNANCE** - Don’t tell me what to do; I’m fine!
- (5) Self **CONFIDENCE** - self-relying, positive assertion & hope & consolation.

*The Passion Week Review:*

- **SUN:** *triumphal entry/messianic presentation*
- **MON:** *messianic power [clearing the Temple]*
- **TUES:** *messianic proclamation [debates in the Temple]*
- **WED:** *Silent day/preparations for Passover*
- **THURS:** *messianic preparation/Passover*

**THESIS — I will provide a few observations from this text. I phrase them in 4 very pointed, specific, pastoral exhortations!**

**I. SEE THE DANGER OF SELF-CONFIDENCE (14:29, 31)****★WHAT GOT PETER TO THIS POINT? What happened? What’s the \*downward spiral?\***

1. He boasted too **loudly** (boasting self confidence)
2. He prayed too **little** (fell due to prayerlessness; didn’t seek God’s grace or power)
3. He slept too **much** (sleep, not watching, oblivious to danger, not spiritually alert)
4. He acted too **fast** (in a moment of need; he acted/lived based on \*emotion\*, not truth)
5. He followed too **far** (tried to stay far so no one would identify him with Jesus)

**II. SEE THE SHAME OF PUBLIC DENIALS (66-71)**

A. **#1- a Servant Girl and saw Peter (66-67)**

B. **#2- Servant girl said to bystanders-this is one of them (69)**

C. **#3- More bystanders were saying: sure you are a Galilean too (70-71)**

*Don't miss the background/context of the pointed warning of this text. >>Mark writes his gospel from Peter's eyewitness testimony. This is obvious. And, Mark is writing to the Roman Church severely under pressure of persecution. This provides a warning: "If denying Christ is possible for an apostle — for Peter! — than you must constantly be on guard lest you too deny Jesus!"*

### **III. SEE THE TIMING OF DIVINE PROVIDENCE (72a)**

### **IV. SEE THE GRACE OF TRUE REPENTANCE (72b)**

#### **True Marks of Repentance**

1. True Repentance Begins with a **Knowledge** of Sin
2. True Repentance Produces **Sorrow** for Sin
3. True Repentance Produces **Confession** of Sin
4. True Repentance Produces a **Breaking Off** From Sin
5. True Repentance Produces a **Deep Hatred** of Sin
6. True Repentance Results in **New Habits** of Holiness

So what do we do? Peter learned the lesson - 2 Peter 3:17-18

1. Right **GUARD!** - be on guard (17a)

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2. Right **GROWTH!** - grow in grace! (18a)
3. Right **GLORY!** - glory in Christ alone! (18b)

And another lessons from Psalm 119

**Psalm 119!!** vv.6, 46, 80, 116

1. CONSUME the Word!
2. CLING to Christ!
3. CHERISH God’s power!
4. CONSIDER heaven’s welcome!

Matt. 10:32 — “Therefore everyone who confesses Me before men, I will also confess him before My Father who is in heaven.

Jesus had no need to die for people who are sinless, for there are no such people. He gave Himself for people who have it in them to betray Him, people like you and me. However, He will never betray those on whom He sets His love, but will love them faithfully for all time. (RC Sproul)

### GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS

I Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father,  
there is no shadow of turning with thee.  
Thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;  
as thou hast been, thou forever wilt be.

*Great is thy faithfulness!*  
*Great is thy faithfulness!*  
*Morning by morning new mercies I see;*  
*all I have needed thy hand hath provided.*  
*Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!*

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,  
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above  
join with all nature in manifold witness  
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,  
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,  
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

**HE WILL HOLD ME FAST**

When I fear my faith will fail  
 Christ will hold me fast  
 When the tempter would prevail  
 He will hold me fast  
 I could never keep my hold  
 Through life's fearful path  
 For my love is often cold  
 He must hold me fast

*He will hold me fast  
 He will hold me fast  
 For my Savior loves me so  
 He will hold me fast*

Those He saves are His delight  
 Christ will hold me fast  
 Precious in His holy sight  
 He will hold me fast  
 He'll not let my soul be lost

His promises shall last  
 Bought by Him at such a cost  
 He will hold me fast

For my life He bled and died  
 Christ will hold me fast  
 Justice has been satisfied  
 He will hold me fast  
 Raised with Him to endless life  
 He will hold me fast  
 Till our faith is turned to sight  
 When he comes at last

A haughty spirit goes before a fall. Oh, that we might look to the roots of bitter flowers, and destroy them! If presumption is flourishing in the soil of our hearts today, we shall soon see the evil fruit which will come of it. Reliance upon our firmness of character, depth of experience, clearness of insight, or matureness in grace, will, in the end, land us in disgraceful failure. We must either deny ourselves, or we shall deny our Lord; if we cleave to self-confidence, we shall not cleave to him. (Charles Spurgeon)

**PRAYER MEETING**

RESPONSE to the Word

PLEA for our souls

INTERCESSION for our missionaries

1. Liam Kim (*Myanmar*, Koinonia Baptist Seminary) - 5 new missionaries to 5 people groups who can't read
2. Sean Ransom (*Philippines*, The Expositor's Academy) - training in Vietnam, India, Myanmar, Korea, Indonesia
3. Ratan Konala (*India*, Acts Bible Church) - 20 new members to the Church
4. Dorothy Callier (*St Louis, MO*) - discipleship relationships