

Calvary Chapel  Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY TEACHER'S PACKET

1st Grade

Sunday Morning

Study 28

Peter's Denial

Peter's Denial

The Objective is the key concept for this weeks lesson. It should be the main focus of the study

These are the key verses that you will find helpful in teaching your study this week. The "Main passage" is the basis of the study, where the other verse support the objective of the lesson.

There is a memory verse for the students that relates to every study. If a student can memorize the verse for the following week you may give them a prize from the "reward box" found on your cart.

An introductory activity or question that will settle the class, draw their attention to the study and prepare their hearts for God's Word.

Objective This lesson will look at the dangers of pride using the story of Peter's denial.

Key Verses

Matthew 26:31-35, 56-58, 69-75—Main Teaching Passage
Mark 14:27-31, 53-54, 66-72; Luke 22: 31-34, 54-62; John 13:36-38; 18:15-18, 25-27 (Parallel Passage)

Memory Verse - 2 Corinthians 10:17, NIV

"But, 'Let the one who boasts boast in the Lord.'"

Hook

Review last week's memory verse, Luke 22:42b.

Ask for a volunteer who claims to be the smartest kid in class. Ask for the strongest kid in class and the best artist. Then put each one to a test that is much too hard for them (e.g. have the strongest kid lift the heaviest object in the room, the smart one answer 2375×3881 , or the artist draw a perfect picture).

When we are overconfident in our abilities, it is called pride. Pride often gets us in difficult situations. Today, pride will give one of Jesus' disciples a big problem.

What does the Bible say? This is where we will read a passage or series of passages that teach on the subject of the day.

BOOK

Before we get into the main story, we first must look at a discussion Jesus and His disciples had on the way to Gethsemane before His arrest in Matthew 26:31-35 (and parallel passages). As they went, Jesus told the disciples that each of them would abandon Him that night. Peter replied that even if the rest of them fell away, he would stick with Him until death. Jesus then told him that before the rooster crowed, Peter would deny Him three times.

Last week, we saw Judas and some of the religious leaders arrest Jesus and take Him to trial. Matthew 26:58 tells us that Peter followed from a distance (verse 56 tells us the rest of the disciples already fled). While Jesus was on trial (next week's study), Peter sat in the courtyard warming himself by the fire (verses 69-75). As he sat there, a servant girl approached him and claimed that she saw him with Jesus, but Peter said he didn't know what she was talking about. He walked away, only to have another servant girl accuse him of being with Jesus. Again, He denied knowing who Jesus was. Later, a third person came and said that Peter's accent was Galilean, and that he must have known Jesus. Matthew says that at this point, Peter called a curse on himself to deny knowing Jesus. Immediately, the rooster crowed. When Peter heard the rooster, he remembered how Jesus said that Peter would deny Him. The story ends by saying that Peter went out and wept bitterly.

LOOK

In this story, Peter became another name on the long list of people in the Bible who fell victim to pride. At first, Peter was confident that he would stick with Jesus, no matter the cost. After all, Peter was the one who once walked on water in a storm to go see Jesus. Throughout the Gospels, Peter showed himself to be courageous to a fault. Last week, we saw him try to fight off those who were arresting Jesus, and even in today's story we see him following Jesus when all the other disciples had already abandoned him. Peter's courage had become an area of pride for him, and that pride made for a spectacular collapse.

Notice that Peter's denial did not come at the hands of a Roman soldier, or even one of the religious leaders. Two of his three accusers were servant girls, yet even before them Peter was too afraid to admit that He knew Jesus. Also see how each denial got worse. He went from avoiding the question ("I don't know what you're talking about") to outright denial ("I don't know Him") to cursing himself. Peter claimed that he was willing to die for Jesus, but even when he was warned, he failed to show enough

The interpretation/exegesis of the passage. What does this passage mean? How does this passage apply to my life?

LOOK (Continued)

courage to admit he followed Jesus in front of a servant girl! Peter's pride had caused him to think he was unable to fail in his courage, and so he was forced to learn the dangers of pride the hard way. Thankfully, unlike Judas, Peter's story did not end here. In a few weeks we will see how Jesus restored Him, and when we study the book of Acts, Peter will do amazing things for the Lord.

We, like Peter, can all too easily fall to the sin of pride. Maybe you have extraordinary strength, intelligence, athleticism, or artistic talent. While it is wonderful to be skilled in these areas, talent does leave us vulnerable to pride. Pride can lead us into situations that are too difficult for us. It can cause us to make promises we can't keep, and even when we do have enough skill, pride results in us giving ourselves all the credit. What then is the cure for pride? 2 Corinthians 10:17 tells us that the one who boasts should boast in the Lord. We should be humble about our skills and accomplishments and give God thanks for them. That doesn't mean that we deny our talents or act like they don't exist. Rather, we ought to recognize that all our gifts, talents, and accomplishments are from the Lord and give Him the glory for them.

What is my response to this passage of Scripture? How should my life change according to what this passage teaches me? What are the practical things I can do throughout the week to make this true in my life?

TOOK

As a class, memorize 2 Corinthians 10:17.

Review the lesson by asking each student to think of an area in which he/she is gifted. Encourage them to give God glory for that gift and warn them against pride.

Pray: Ask the Lord to help each of us avoid pride. Thank Him for the gifts He has given each student.

Parent Question: What are the dangers of pride?

FURTHER STUDY

Commentary on Matthew 26 by David Guzik

5. ([Mat 26:31-35](#)) Jesus predicts the desertion of the disciples.

Then Jesus said to them, "All of you will be made to stumble because of Me this night, for it is written: 'I will strike the Shepherd, And the sheep of the flock will be scattered.' But after I have been raised, I will go before you to Galilee." Peter answered and said to Him, "Even if all are made to stumble because of You, I will never be made to stumble." Jesus said to him, "Assuredly, I say to you that this night, before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times." Peter said to Him, "Even if I have to die with You, I will not deny You!" And so said all the disciples.

a. **All of you will be made to stumble because of Me this night:** Jesus said this not to condemn His disciples, but to show them that He really was in command of the situation, and to demonstrate that the Scriptures regarding the suffering of the Messiah *must* be fulfilled.

b. **After I have been raised:** Jesus already was looking beyond the cross. His eyes were set on *the joy set before Him* ([Hebrews 12:2](#)).

c. **Even if I have to die with You, I will not deny You!** Peter was tragically unaware of both the spiritual *reality* and the spiritual *battle* that Jesus clearly saw. Peter felt brave at the moment and had no perception beyond the moment. Soon, Peter would be intimidated before a humble servant girl, and before her Peter would deny that he even knew Jesus.

i. "No doubt these words were spoken from his heart; but 'the heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked.'" (Spurgeon)

d. **Assuredly, I say to you that this night, before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times:** Jesus knew that Peter would fail in what he thought was his strong area - courage and boldness. Through this solemn warning Jesus gave Peter an opportunity to take heed and consider his own weakness.

i. Jesus said it so clearly to Peter. "Peter, you will be made to stumble. You will forsake Me, your Master. You will do it this very night - before the rooster crows. You will deny that you have any association with Me, or even know Me. And you won't only do it once; you will do it *three times*." "Was not this warning enough to him not to trust in his own strength, but to depend on God?" (Clarke)

ii. It was an opportunity that Peter did not use. Instead he said, "**If I have to die with You, I will not deny You!**" Jesus knew Peter far better than Peter did, and in over-estimating himself, Peter was ready for a fall.

iii. The rest of the disciples also overestimated their strength and did not rely on the Lord in the critical hour: **And so said all the disciples.** The Apostle Paul warned us against falling where we think we are strong: *Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall* ([1 Corinthians 10:12](#)). When we think we are beyond the reach of some sins, we are ready for a fall.

iv. "Apparently it was usual for roosters in Palestine to crow about 12:30, 1:30, and 2:30 A.M.; so the Romans gave the term 'cock-crow' to the watch from 12:00 to 3:00 A.M." (Carson)

1. ([Mat 26:57-59](#)) Jesus is taken to the home of Caiaphas.

And those who had laid hold of Jesus led *Him* away to Caiaphas the high priest, where the scribes and the elders were assembled. But Peter followed Him at a distance to the high priest's courtyard. And he went in and sat with the servants to see the end.

a. **And those who had laid hold of Jesus led Him away to Caiaphas the high priest:** This was not the first appearance of Jesus before a judge or official on the night of His betray. On that night and the day of His crucifixion, Jesus actually stood in trial several times before different judges.

i. Before Jesus came to the home of **Caiaphas** (the official high priest) He was led to the home of Annas, who was the ex-high priest and the "power behind the throne" of the high priest (according to [John 18:12-14](#) and [John 18:19-23](#)).

b. **Where the scribes and the elders were assembled:** Caiaphas had gathered a group of the Sanhedrin to pass judgment on Jesus.

i. After the break of dawn, the Sanhedrin gathered again, this time in official session, and they conducted the trial described in [Luke 22:66-71](#).

c. **Peter followed Him at a distance ... to see the end:** Peter was determined to prove wrong Jesus' prediction that He would deny and forsake Jesus at His death.

5. ([Mat 26:69-75](#)) Fearing association with Jesus, Peter denies his relationship with Jesus three times.

Now Peter sat outside in the courtyard. And a servant girl came to him, saying, "You also were with Jesus of Galilee." But he denied it before *them* all, saying, "I do not know what you are saying." And when he had gone out to the gateway, another *girl* saw him and said to those *who were* there, "This *fellow* also was with Jesus of Nazareth." But again he denied with an oath, "I do not know the Man!" And a little later those who stood by came up and said to Peter, "Surely you also are *one* of them, for your speech betrays you." Then he began to curse and swear, *saying*, "I do not know the Man!" Immediately a rooster crowed. And Peter remembered the word of Jesus who had said to him, "Before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times." So he went out and wept bitterly.

a. **A servant girl came to him:** Peter was not questioned before a hostile court or even an angry mob. Peter's own fear made a **servant girl** and **another girl** hostile monsters in his eyes, and he bowed in fear before them.

b. **I do not know the Man!** Peter's sin of denying his association with Jesus grew worse with each denial. First, he merely lied; then he took an **oath** to the lie, then **he began to curse and swear**.

i. **Those who stood by:** "Loungers; seeing Peter's confusion, and amusing themselves by tormenting him." (Bruce)

ii. "The Galileans spoke with a burr; so ugly was their accent that no Galilean was allowed to pronounce the benediction at a synagogue service." (Barclay) "Galilean speech was defective in pronouncing the gutturals, and making " .n=w(Bruce)

iii. And, as if it would help distance himself from association with Jesus, Peter **began to curse and swear**. "To call down curses on himself, sign of irritation and desperation; has lost self-control completely." (Bruce) When we hear that kind of language, we normally assume the person is not a follower of Jesus.

c. **Peter remembered the word of Jesus ... so he went out and wept bitterly:** Peter finally remembered and took to heart what Jesus said, but in this case he did so too late. For now, all he could do was to weep **bitterly**. Yet Peter would be restored, showing a significant contrast between Judas (showing *apostasy*) and Peter (showing *backsliding*).

i. Apostasy is giving up the truth, as Judas did. Judas was sorry about his sin, but it was not a sorrow leading to repentance.

ii. Backsliding is a decline from a spiritual experience once enjoyed. Peter slipped, but he will not fall; his bitter weeping will lead to repentance and restoration.

d. **And wept bitterly:** This was the beginning of Peter's repentance. Several things brought him to this place.

i. The rooster's preaching brought Peter to repentance. "The cock proved a preacher to Peter. Despise not the minister though never so mean; it is the foolishness of preaching that must bring men to heaven." (Trapp)

ii. The loving look of Jesus brought Peter to repentance. Luke tells us that just after the rooster crowed, *the Lord turned and looked at Peter* ([Luke 22:61](#)). "Christ looked upon Judas, when Judas kissed him ... yet Judas went on in his villany without remorse. He looked upon Peter, and he went out and wept bitterly." (Poole)

iii. The give of remembering brought Peter to repentance; **Peter remembered the words of Jesus**. "Our memories serve us much in the business of repentance." (Poole)