



WEEK 9

STUDY GUIDE

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Monday June 20, 2022

Read: Mark 14:66–72

Scripture Verse: *“While Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant girls of the high priest came by. When she saw Peter warming himself, she looked closely at him. “You also were with that Nazarene, Jesus” she said” Mark 14:66–67.*

Today’s Thought:

In this study, we are talking about the vulnerabilities that Christians have. So, because of Peter’s vulnerability, there are situations and people to avoid. This vulnerability puts the Christian in a situation of fragility. Verse 66 “said that Peter was below in the courtyard ...” Peter was in a place where he should not be, while previously Jesus asked him to watch and pray. Here we see a lack of submission to the word of Jesus. We also see a lack of vigilance and determination in prayer. To be in the courtyard amid the enemies of God put him at risk and made him vulnerable.

A Christian is a person who accepts Jesus as his Savior, adheres to the doctrine or teachings of Christ, follows His way of acting, and desires to be like Him. This implicitly means that Jesus took him in the world to set him apart. He is not of the world, and as a Christian he must separate himself from it. A Christian who doesn’t come to this point will put his spiritual life in great danger.

To preserve his life and his relationship with God, the Christian should stay far from worldly things. Christian, be sure that you know your vulnerabilities before you go somewhere. Because of your vulnerability, you should be prudent. The Bible says: “The prudent see danger and take refuge, but the simple keep going and pay the penalty.” Proverbs 22:3.

As a Christian you should promote your Christian values, avoid places that could allow the enemy to take ground in your life. In order not to succumb to temptation, you must strive to stay in safe places because Satan is working hard day and night to bring you down. Recognize that you are Christian first before taking any action. Recognize your weaknesses before entering any eventual tempting situation. Avoid any association that could put you in danger of compromising your faith. Avoid standing in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers. We are living in the midst of the enemies of God, we should be

very careful.

Therefore, we are already saved but we are not free from this world and its evil. The servant of God should be ready to say no to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this world that is watching us. Arrogance and self-assurance should be replaced with humility and entire dependance on God.

Contrary to Judas who went away and hanged himself (Matthew 27:5), Peter's experiences lead him to later address this exhortation to us today: "The end of all things is near. Therefore be alert and of sober mind so that you may pray." 1Peter 4:7.

Father God, thank you for remembering me in your word today that I am vulnerable and fragile. Help me to stay far from worldly things, to avoid standing in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers. Equip me with the spiritual weapons to stand firm and push back all the attacks, distraction, and accusation of the enemy. Give me the discernment to detect His voice.

- What made Peter's life vulnerable?
- What did Peter do that he shouldn't?
- What does the word "Christian" mean for you?
- What does Proverb 22:3 tell us about being prudent?
- What should you do to promote the Christian life?
- Since the world is watching us, what should God's servant be able to say no to?

Further Reading: Psalms 1: 1, Titus 2:11-15

Tuesday June 21, 2022

Read: Mark 14:1-25

Scripture Verse: *“But he denied it. “I don’t know or understand what you are talking about,” he said and went out into the entryway. When the servant girls saw him there, she said again to those standing around, “This fellow is one of them.””* Mark 14:68-69

Today’s Thought:

We have talked about how a Christian is vulnerable because the world is watching after him. People in the world are watching when you will fall in order to laugh at you and to accuse you. In these verses, Mark 14:68-69 we will consider what led Peter to deny his Master while he swore even though everyone would deny Jesus, he wouldn’t. Peter did not deny Jesus just once, but three consecutive times in one night. This consideration will also help us to know how to prepare our heart and to keep our commitment to stand for the Lord.

Our first consideration will lead to verse 33 of the same chapter. Jesus took Peter, James and John along with him, and he said to them, “stay here and keep watch.” Peter had the responsibility to keep watch on his life while Jesus went to pray. When he returned to his disciples, he found them sleeping, they couldn’t keep watching for a while. The disciples had to watch because it is the hour of the power of the darkness. It is the specific time for Satan to act and attack. It is the hour of temptation; he warned them of the danger they are in of falling away and deny him. They should be vigilant, be on their guard to overcome iniquity, to be victorious in spiritual warfare. The lesson for you today, don’t depend on your strength, don’t lean on your own understanding, but count on the Lord’s power.

Our second consideration is in verse 38. Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. Jesus asked them, they needed to pray to be able to overcome temptation and evil. Jesus knew that with their own strength they could not overcome the temptation that would come their way. To get the victory Peter needed to pray. If he doesn’t pray and depend on God’s strength, he will lose the battle with temptation along the way.

So, there are two very important lessons to learn in what led Peter to

deny his Master. The first lesson as Christian we need to learn: to watch, to be vigilant, to be on our guard to overcome temptation, to have the discernment to discover the scheme of the devil.

The second important one is to pray so that we will be triumphant in temptation. Failing to pray is giving access to the enemy to tempt us and to fall to the temptation. If Jesus himself needed to pray during his earthly ministry to overcome the attacks of the enemy, how much more do you and I need to watch and pray to live the Christian life? Failing to watch and pray is committing not to live a godly life.

Father God, thank you for your word today. Help me to learn this lesson today: to watch, be vigilant, and have discernment. Help me to use prayer as a weapon to push back the attack of the enemy and help me to stand firm.

- What caused Peter's denial?
- Why should Peter and the other disciples be vigilant?
- What lessons can you learn from what led Peter to deny Jesus?
- What can happen to you if you neglect to pray?

Further Reading: Mark 13:33–37

Wednesday June 22, 2022

Read: Mark 14:66-72

Scripture Verse: *“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.” Mark 14:70*

Today’s Thought:

We have considered two main reasons that led Peter to deny Jesus. Now we are going to see the tragic moment in the life of Peter and how you can use this crucial event of his life to build your faith in Jesus and do not let anyone, anything lead you off the path and away from God’s will for you.

Consider the declaration of Peter “Even if all fall away, I will not” v.29 While Jesus told “you will all fall away.” v.27. Who would have thought that Peter was going to deny Jesus? Verses 69-70 recorded the denials of Peter. Three times he was asking about knowing Jesus and his association with him. Each time he categorically claimed: “I don’t know or understand what you are talking about.”. He completely ignored his association with Jesus. No idea came to his mind about his mother-in-law’s fever. “Jesus left the synagogue and went to the home of Simon. Now Simon’s mother-in-law was suffering from a high fever, and they asked Jesus to help her.” Luke 4:38. He took Peter, James and John into the house of Jairus, where Jesus raised Jairus’ daughter from the dead (Mark 5:35-43). Peter was with Jesus on the mountain during the transfiguration (Matthew 17:1-9). Peter saw Jesus’ agony in the Garden of Gethsemane (Mark 14:33-42). Peter was a man who often spoke before he thought. Because he spoke before he thought, his words led to embarrassment. He denied Christ three times during the night of his trial.

We can see his denial was one of the crucial moments of his life. As human beings, sin created weakness and fear in us. Peter’s denial was based on weakness, fear and lack of vigilance and prayer. Jesus told his disciples to be alert and pray. Instead of praying, Jesus found them sleeping. Jesus warned Peter to stay awake and pray because the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak. Peter denied Jesus three times because he relied on his power, not on the Spirit of God. We are human beings like Peter, Jesus gave us the same warning: Watch and pray so that we will not fall into temptation and deny him.

So, we should do our best to not disregard God’s warnings. We should

watch and pray for strength and endurance to overcome the trials ahead. If we watch and pray, no weapon forged against us will prevail, and we will refute every tongue that accuses us. No matter how much you have sinned, nor how far you follow Jesus, it is never too late to return to God and ask him forgiveness in Jesus Christ.

Dear God, thank you for revealing to me this tragic moment in Peter's life. His failure was great, but your compassion, your love and mercy are greater than his denial. Lord, in your mercy, when I fall and come up short, pick me up and restore me. Help me to remain faithful and use me to proclaim your word.

- What was the tragic moment in Peter's life?
- Under what circumstances did Peter deny Jesus?
- What is the tragic moment in your spiritual life?
- What would happen when you disregard God's warning?

Further Reading: 1 Peter 5: 6-11

Thursday June 23, 2022

Read: Mark 14:1-25

Scripture Verse: *“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.”” Mark 14:72a.*

Today’s Thought:

The primary purpose of a clock is to display the time. Clocks may also have the facility to make a loud alert signal at a specified time, typically to waken a sleeper. They are referred to as alarm clocks. Before the invention of the clock, people learned how to use “solar time.” Others used the rooster’s crow. Until now in the countryside of Haiti some people still use the cockcrow to wake them up early. They wake up every morning to the roosters crowing to go to the farm, to the market, even to prepare their children for school. It is very difficult not to find a rooster in a house in a rural area. The rooster makes a loud alert signal at a specific time to wake them up. A rooster crow because he has an internal clock that helps him anticipate the sunrise. If God put in the rooster an internal clock to anticipate the sunrise, to get a head start on his daily hunt for food, how much more will he give us the Holy Spirit to recall us from our sins.

We have seen the tragic moment in Peter’s life. Instead of being loyal to Jesus like he had passionately promised in verse 31, he adamantly denied Christ three times. Now we are going to consider the warning of Jesus and the internal clock in Peter’s life.

Jesus gave this warning to Peter “Before the rooster crows twice you will disown me three times.” v.72a. This declaration should serve Peter as a warning. Peter should remember this warning every day. Peter didn’t pay attention to this warning; he denied the Lord and began to deal with the gravity of his denial.

Fortunately, the rooster was around. The Spirit of God stirred up the internal clock in Peter’s life. Whatever the gravity of your mistakes, your sin, do not flee from God. His grace is still there for you. “... where sin increased, grace increased all the more, so that, just as sin reigned in death, so also grace might reign through righteousness to bring eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.” Roman 5: 20-21. We have the benefit of the Holy Spirit to guide our hearts and warn us when we are in the

wrong way. Sometimes, we don't heed the warning and fall to temptation and sin. But "if we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness" 1 John 1:9. If you confess, forgiveness and restoration are still available in Jesus Christ.

Father God, thank you for putting your Holy Spirit in me like a rooster crow to lead me, guide me, rebuke me, correct me, and train me in righteousness. Fill me every day with your Holy Spirit. May I hear his alert in my heart, receive it and make good decisions in my life. May I hear his voice calling me to repentance.

- What is the importance of an alarm clock or a rooster crow?
- What warning did Jesus give to Peter?
- What did the rooster crow arouse in Peter's life?
- Today, what has God put in us as an alert?
- What is his role in our Life?

Further Reading: Roman 5: 18-21

Friday June 24, 2022

Read: Mark 14:66-72

Scripture Verse: *“And he broke down and wept” v.72b*

Today’s Thought:

We just considered the warning of Jesus and the internal clock in Peter’s life. Now we will consider the restoration of Peter. We have seen Peter fall because he didn’t watch and pray. He wanted to demonstrate his courage, confidence in the strength of his own virtue. While our strength only comes when we trust humbly and sincerely to the grace of God in Jesus Christ.

Peter remembered the grace of God. “And Peter remembered the word which Jesus had spoken to him: “Before the rooster crows twice, you will deny me three times.” When Peter thought about this word, he wept. A look of love from Jesus reminded Peter of his condition and made him burst into tears. Peter realized that true repentance was the key to enter the kingdom of God. He realized that he had denied his Master, he repented, and God restored him.

S. Clark said: “Nothing will make the face of God’s children more beautiful than to wash themselves every morning in their tears.”

*“So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don’t fall!” 1
Corinthian 10:12. As a Christian, you should be aware that you are walking on a slippery road. This world is very slippery for those who want to live a godly life. “In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.” 2 Timothy 3:12. You should watch out for every little danger in your path. You should be very careful that you don’t fall. If by accident you fall, don’t stay on the ground; God always provides a way out. Confess your sin, ask him to forgive you and restore you and continue to watch and pray for the next eventuality. “No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.” 1
Corinthian 10:13.*

Peter would not have fallen if he had remembered Christ’s warning to him: “Watch and pray.” Do not mold yourselves to this world, consider who you are. You are a Christian, “A chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the

praises of him who called you out of darkness into the wonderful light.” 1 Peter 2:9.

My Father in heaven, I bow down before you. I pray you would forgive me for my transgressions. I confess my sins before you, wash and cleanse me in your shedding blood. Forgive and restore me and use me mightily as you have done for Peter.

- Where does your strength come from?
- What warning did Jesus give Peter and remembering had made him weep?
- What did this look of love from Jesus mean to Peter?
- What does a look of love from Jesus mean to you?
- What should the Christian be aware of?
- If you accidentally fall, how should you behave, and what should you do?

Further Reading: James 1:12–19, 1 Corinthians 10:12–15

NOTES



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