



What Peter's Denial of Jesus Says About You Mark 14:29-31, 53-54,66-72

I. Peter's Failure to be a True Witness of Jesus

Peter's pride and lack of spiritual preparation led to his downfall

1. He boasted he wouldn't fail Jesus
2. He defiantly persists that he won't fail even after Jesus tells him he will fail.
3. Prayerlessness. Three times Jesus had asked he and John and James to stay awake to pray but he fell back asleep.
4. Peter's impulsiveness. When they came to arrest Jesus Peter draws his sword and whacks off a guy's ear.
5. Peter compromised by allowing himself to be in a place of danger where his faith might be tested beyond what he was able to resist.

"You also were with that Nazarene, Jesus," she said.⁶⁸ **But he denied it.** "I don't know or understand what you're talking about," he said, and went out into the entryway. ...and again in When the servant girl saw him there, she said again to those standing around, "This fellow is one of them." ⁷⁰ **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." ⁷¹ He began to call down curses, and he swore to them, **"I don't know this man you're talking about."**

II. Peter is restored and leads a remarkably faithful witness.

Mark taking the time to write this down, some thirty years after the fact, clearly shows that Peter publically and faithfully testified for Jesus after this great denial.

Richard Bauckham author of *Jesus and the Eyewitnesses* writes:

The very passage we just read is probably the leading piece of evidence that the book of Mark is actually the testimony of Peter. No one in the early church would have dared to highlight the weakness and the failure of the most revered and significant leader in the entire Christian movement, with the candor Mark's narrative does. Therefore the only possible source for the account of Peter's denial would be Peter himself."

"Let us remember the noble examples of our own generation, through jealousy and hatred, the most just pillars of our church were persecuted and put onto death; even Peter, at last having delivered his testimony. He parted to the place of glory prepared for him."

Clement of Alexandria 50ad-115ad

Jesus restores Peter to lead again. Why?

Because nothing creates greater effectiveness into speaking into people's lives then for any of us to plunge our failures into Jesus' grace.

Tim Keller author of *Kings Cross*

III. What We Need to Learn From This

In a very real way Mark is contrasting two scenes, two trials as it were.

In one is Peter who is justly accused as being one of Jesus' disciples, yet he gets off.

In the other Jesus is unjustly accused of crimes he did not commit and he is condemned.

Jesus isn't suffering unjustly, He's suffering substitutionally.

As the Prophet Isaiah wrote centuries earlier, "He was crushed for our inequities."

1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

1 John 2:1b, 2 ... we have an advocate who pleads our case before the Father. He is Jesus Christ, the one who is truly righteous. 2 He himself is the sacrifice that atones for our sins...

Who dares accuse us whom God has chosen for his own? No one—for God himself has given us right standing with himself. 34 Who then will condemn us? No one—for Christ Jesus died for us and was raised to life for us, and he is sitting in the place of honor at God's right hand, pleading for us.
Romans 8:33,34

When you receive Christ as your LORD and Savior, You don't have to represent yourself anymore in the court of God's justice

1. Your guilt has been removed.
2. You no longer can be controlled by human opinion.
3. It will make you a great witness for Christ.
4. It will give you an amazing sense of humor