

DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

Our Mission: Reaching out to leaders who can change the world.

Feb 2012

LESSON 15 – GOD’S SERVANT – DENIED

INTRODUCTION

- How has your pride gotten you in trouble?

OBSERVATION/INTERPRETATION

Note: *John 21:15-23 shows that Jesus publicly reinstated Peter and did not disown him for his denials. His example of love and forgiveness challenges us to do the same. Jesus shows us that being afraid is not sinful, but trying to deal with fear in our strength is. If Peter had recognized and admitted his weakness to Jesus he might not have fallen as he did? Since Peter became a leader of the apostles and early church, it seems that his tears signified more than remorse: they were tears of sorrow and repentance. “The phrase **fall away** does not mean that the disciples would lose their faith in Jesus but that their courage in following him during the upcoming intense events would fail them. They would forsake him.”¹*

Read Mark 14:26-31

Note: *Jesus told the disciples several times that He would meet them on a mount in Galilee. This special meeting was the occasion for the Great Commission (Matt. 28:16–20), which is probably the post-resurrection appearance spoken of in I Cor. 15:6. This does not refer to the ascension, which took place from the Mount of Olives forty days after the resurrection (Acts 1:12).² The detail that the rooster crows twice is an eyewitness memory of Peter and is only recorded in the Gospel of Mark.*

1. How does Peter see himself in relation to the other disciples?
2. What would motivate such a response from Peter? What is wrong with self-confidence?
3. Why did Jesus warn the disciples (especially Peter) of their upcoming denial? Zech 13:7
4. Would Jesus rather deal with failure or unrepentant unbelief? (see Lsn 15 article)

Read Mark 14:66-72

Note: *It was a full moon (at Passover) so people could see easily by the firelight.*

5. What caused Peter to go to the high priest’s house? (68)

Note: *Peter’s words in Vs 68 were an expression used in Jewish law courts for a formal, legal denial.*

6. How was each of the accusations a greater threat than the one before?
7. What progression do you observe in the way in which Peter answers?
8. What does verse 72 reveal about Peter?
9. What “rooster” reminds you of your guilt? What is your response?
10. When have you denied Christ? How might your *denial* make you *more* qualified for ministry?

APPLICATION

- How are we sometimes like Peter in courage, cowardice and remorse?
- What weakness do you need to admit to Jesus? (2 Cor 12:9)

*Paul Harvey, the famous radio personality, often gave one part of a story before he went to a commercial. When he came back, he said, “And now ... the rest of the story.” Jesus wanted to make sure the disciples heard the rest of the story. **But after I have risen, I will go ahead of you into Galilee.** Jesus was saying that death might be real but it was not final. Notice these two keys. He will be “raised.” There is hope. The resurrection is a certainty. Also, they would still be his disciples, even though they would forsake him. He would meet them in Galilee. The work would go on ... with them.”³*

¹ ³ Cooper, R. L. (2000). *Vol. 2: Mark*. Holman New Testament Commentary; Holman Reference (238). Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman Publishers.

² Utley, R. J. D. (2001). *Vol. Volume 2: The Gospel According to Peter: Mark and I & II Peter*. Study Guide Commentary Series (181). Marshall, Texas: Bible Lessons International.