



Denying Jesus Mark 14:66-72

Great facts about Peter from “12 Ordinary Men”

- Given name by birth was Simon Bar-Jonah (a common name, at least 7 ‘Simons’ named in the gospel accounts alone). He was a fisherman by trade.
- Simon Bar-Jonah means “Simon son of Jonah”. But when Jesus meets him He immediately gives him a new name: Peter (in Greek, “petras”, rock, or stone.) In Aramaic it is “Cephas”, a stone.
- Sometimes see Peter referred to as Simon by Jesus-- usually indicates when Peter was acting like his old self; when Jesus calls him as Peter, He was commending him for acting the way he should be.
- Peter was bold, aggressive, impulsive, outspoken, loud and no doubt the one who stepped up to be the leader of the disciples, and was the closest of the 12 to Jesus.
- Simon would be named “Peter the rock” because that is what he would have to become in order to do what God had called him to!
- In Matthew 14, Peter walks on water!

Matthew 14:30 But when he saw that the wind was boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink he cried out, saying, “Lord, save me!” And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him, and said to him, “ O you of little faith, why did you doubt?”

- Mark is not just giving us a historical account...leaves us with many loose ends. But clear on this betrayal.
- **This story MIGHT be worse than Judas’ betrayal. And more applicable to us.**

Mark 14:66-68 And as Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant girls of the high priest came, and seeing Peter warming himself, she looked at him and said, “You also were with the Nazarene, Jesus.” But he denied it, saying, “I neither know nor understand what you mean.” And he went out into the gateway and the rooster crowed.

- Warming himself. Still not sure.
- Deny--to disown, to affirm that one has no acquaintance or connection with someone to forget one's self

- This is NOT just a sidelight to Jesus' trial. This is a defining, deliberate CONTRAST between Jesus' obedience and bold affirmation, and Peter's denial and desertion.

Mark 14:69-71 And the servant girl saw him and began again to say to the bystanders, "This man is one of them." But again he denied it. And after a little while the bystanders again said to Peter, "Certainly you are one of them, for you are a Galilean." But he began to invoke a curse on himself and to swear, "I do not know this man of whom you speak."

- 2 more denials. Each worse. To the bystanders, & then bystanders themselves.
- Curse. On himself, if he is not telling the truth? On Jesus, which was common. This was a particular, terrible kind of blasphemy.

Mark 14:72 And immediately the rooster crowed a second time. And Peter remembered how Jesus had said to him, "Before the rooster crows twice, you will deny me three times." And he broke down and wept.

- Luke 22:61-62 says he wept bitterly.
- Difference between remorse (Judas) and repentance (Peter)
- Peter walked on water, cuts off the ear, first one in tomb... and yet, denies Jesus 3 times

Denial

- How big is this? And if Peter, possibly Jesus' best friend failed, is ANYONE immune from denying Jesus?

Luke 22:28-34 "You are those who have stayed with me in my trials, and I assign to you, as my Father assigned to me, a kingdom, that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel. "Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat, but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers." Peter said to him, "Lord, I am ready to go with you both to prison and to death." Jesus said, "I tell you, Peter, the rooster will not crow this day, until you deny three times that you know me."

- Quote from Pillar New Testament Commentary - About the Contrast

"This sets the bold and revealing confession of Jesus before the high priest in glaring contrast to the denial of Peter before a servant girl. Throughout Mark, the disciples have misunderstood Jesus, and one of them even betrays him secretly. But Peter's renunciation is the first open denial of Jesus in Mark. The fact that it comes from the chief apostle makes it all the more trenchant. Peter does not face a formal trial, nor is he even questioned directly about his faith. He denies Jesus without ever using his name. Peter's example is a warning to disciples—then and now—that faithful witness to Jesus is most important (and most easily betrayed) in simple and ordinary actions and words. It is in everyday matters that disciples are true *martyrs* (the root meaning of which in Greek means "to bear witness").

- "Peter's determination to be loyal to Jesus (vv. 29, 31) has brought him much further than the other disciples, but he, too, will now find the truth of Jesus' declaration that the spirit may be willing but the flesh is weak." -- R. T. France

- What does it look like when Peter turns again, and strengthens his brothers?

The restoration

- Acts 2, Peter preaches the sermon of his life:

Acts 2:36-41 Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified." Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?" And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself." And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, "Save yourselves from this crooked generation." So those who received his word were baptized, **and there were added that day about three thousand souls.**

- Think he was restored?!
- Rest of Acts preaching boldly, calling sinners to repent, healing... missionary journeys, chastises those who ascribe healing to him, points to Jesus, writes 2 letters.

Acts 4:20 for we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard.

- What was the key?

Acts 4:13 Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated, common men, they were astonished. And they recognized that they had been with Jesus.

- Church history tells us Peter was crucified upside down, during persecution of Nero in 64 A.D. Clement of Rome: "Peter, through unjust envy, endured not one or two but many labors, and at last, having delivered his testimony, departed unto the place of glory due to him."
- Surely asked to deny again. Peter abided. Peter finished well.

The purpose of Peter's sifting... of his catastrophic fall?

That he would have faith in Jesus, not in Peter!