

Fear and Failure

Mark 14:66-72

I. First Denial – Fear causes failure (14:66-68).

- A. A servant girl, along with other men by the fire in the courtyard, recognize Peter as Jesus' disciple and point it out to him publicly (14:66,67; John 18:25).
- Note: Denials while Annas questions Jesus (John 18:19-24)
 - Note: Another disciple was with Peter (John?) who had better access to the high priests (John 18:15-17).
- B. Peter denies knowing what she is talking about and leaves the fire to go back to the porch/entry (14:68).
- Note: The cock crows 1st after this 1st denial (14:68 – KJV).
 - We naturally respond to fear with self-preservation.
 - We are either controlled by our fear of what others think or by our relationship to Jesus Christ.

II. Second Denial – Fear increases sin (14:69-70a).

- A. When the girl again sees Peter she tell others, and a man confronts Peter for being with Jesus (14:69; Luke 22:58).
- B. Peter again denies it (14:70a).
- Once we lie, our pride pressures us to continue the lie.
 - Fear can cause a downward spiral of spiritual failure.

III. Third Denial – Fear brings regret (14:70b-72).

- A. Several people confront Peter and insist he was a disciple of Jesus (14:70a).
- Notes: It is an hour later (Luke 22:59). Some identify Peter by his accent as Galilean (Matthew 26:73). One is a relative of the man who Peter attacked in the garden (John 18:26).
- B. Peter cursed and lied again about knowing Jesus (14:71).
- C. Peter wept when the cock crowed again (14:72) and Christ looked at him (Luke 22:61).
- Guilt causes the grief of broken fellowship with Christ.
 - If we pursue self-preservation and acceptance by others we will sacrifice intimacy with Christ.