

God With Us
"Before the Rooster Crows"
Matthew 26:69-75

"And when he went out to the entrance, another servant girl saw him, and she said to the bystanders, "This man was with Jesus of Nazareth." And again he denied it with an oath: "I do not know the man." (Matthew 26:56)

I. Peter's Failed Commitment

- a. Peter's denial of Christ was the climax of a series of failures.
 1. Jesus warned Peter that he would be tested by Satan. Peter pridefully argued that the other disciples might fall, but he would remain true.
- b. Denial: Servant girl #1, "You were with Jesus the Galilean." Peter, "I don't know what you mean."
- c. Denial: Servant girl #2, "This man was with Jesus of Nazareth." Peter, "I do not know the man."
 1. Peter is trying to avoid being noticed, but another girl recognizes him in the crowd and calls out to the bystanders for confirmation.
- d. Denial: Bystander, "Certainly you too are one of them, for your accent betrays you." Peter, "I do not know the man." (v.73)
 1. A different dialect of Aramaic was spoken in Galilee, and Judeans made fun of the sloppy pronunciation of consonants by Galileans. Peter's northern accent gave him away.
 2. In different ways the *three challenges* point out that "the disciples were from out of town."
- e. The more Peter lied and denied, the more his Galilean accent gave him away.
- f. The more we lie, the deeper we dig our graves. Liars need good memories.
- g. Peter lied saying he knew nothing about the most famous Galilean of his time, Jesus.
- h. "Could anything good come out of Nazareth?" At that time, it certainly was not Peter.

II. The Rooster Crowed

- a. We cannot always be judged when a *thing* is done once, but this is not true when it is done three times.
- b. *Then he began now...* (v.74) means unleashed a series of insults. These words separated him from Jesus and the other disciples.
- c. Peter claimed to have never been a disciple or a follower of Jesus. Then he cried.

III. Lessons to be Learned

- a. Let's talk a minute about what it means to be committed under stress and trying times.
- b. Most of us would claim as Peter did, *Master I will never deny you. I will never fall asleep on You. I am a better follower than these other followers of Yours. No, not me Lord, "them" Lord, not me.*
- c. We must remember that Jesus allowed all of this to happen. The servant girls and bystanders were placed in Peter's life by the Lord's design.
- d. If Peter had not been broken like this, he may have never fulfilled His calling as the *Rock*.
- e. In his Apostleship, Jesus would need him to be softer, less arrogant, and more understanding of others and their failures. A little forgiveness seasoned with grace goes a long way.
- f. The fact that Peter could ever be used again by Christ is a miracle.
- g. Peter could easily be a solo singer of the words, "Amazing grace...that saved a *wretch* like me!"
- h. In the context of our lives, we too may have denied Jesus in actions, deeds and thought.
- i. We too can truly sing *Amazing Grace* right alongside Peter.