

## **Reaching New Heights in our Love for the Savior The Savior Who Was Denied**

Acts 7:59-60 - *They went on stoning Stephen as he called on the Lord and said, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit!" Then falling on his knees, he cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them!" Having said this, he fell asleep.*

Acts 8:1 - *Saul was in hearty agreement with putting him to death...*

3 lessons from Peter's denial:

### **I. Denying Christ is a Process that Can Be Halted**

#### A. Peter lied

Matthew 26:71-72 - *When he had gone out to the gateway, another servant-girl saw him and said to those who were there, "This man was with Jesus of Nazareth." And again he denied it with an oath, "I do not know the man."*

#### B. Peter lied with an oath

John 18:26 - *One of the slaves of the high priest, being a relative of the one whose ear Peter cut off, said, "Did I not see you in the garden with Him?"*

Matthew 26:74 - *Then he began to curse and swear, "I do not know the man!" And immediately a rooster crowed.*

katanathematizo - "pronouncing death upon oneself at the hand of God if one were lying".

#### C. Peter cursed, swore, and lied

### **II. Denying Christ is a Product of a Careless Heart**

#### A. A refusal to heed confrontation

Mark 14:30 - *And Jesus said to him, "Truly I say to you, that this very night, before a rooster crows twice, you yourself will deny Me three times."*

Mark 14:31 - *But Peter kept saying insistently, "Even if I have to die with You, I will not deny You!" And they all were saying the same thing also.*

#### B. Pride

Mark 14:29 - *But Peter said to Him, "Even though all may fall away, yet I will not."*

John MacArthur - In speaking those words Peter not only revealed unfounded confidence in himself but directly contradicted His Lord's prediction that all the disciples would fall away that very night (v. 31). Based on his feelings of self-confidence and devotion to Jesus, Peter considered himself incapable of disloyalty. He could imagine nothing that would cause him to waver, and not even the Lord's explicit prediction could convince him otherwise. He was certain he had come to the place of spiritual maturity, with his priorities straight, his convictions steadfast, and his faithfulness invulnerable.

1 Corinthians 10:12 - *Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.*

C. Failure to see the need of prayer

D. Poor theology

### **III. Denying Christ Can be Replaced with a Faithful and Powerful Witness**

Acts 4:8-12 - *Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers and elders of the people, if we are on trial today for a benefit done to a sick man, as to how this man has been made well, let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead—by this name this man stands here before you in good health. He is the stone which was rejected by you, the builders, but which became the chief corner stone. And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved."*

Acts 4:13 - *Now as they observed the confidence of Peter and John, and understood that they were uneducated and untrained men, they were marveling, and began to recognize them as having been with Jesus.*

Acts 5:41-42 - *So they went on their way from the presence of the Council, rejoicing that they had been considered worthy to suffer shame for His name. And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they kept right on teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ.*

II Peter 3:17-18 - *You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, be on your guard lest, being carried away by the error of unprincipled men, you fall from your own steadfastness, but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.*

1Peter 3:15 - *but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence*

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