

*When the Rooster Crows at the Break of Dawn  
(Turnpike Wesleyan Church – March 21, 2021)*

*Scripture Text: Matthew 26:69-75 & Luke 22:61*

**(Matthew 26:69-75)** Meanwhile, Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. A servant girl came over and said to him, “You were one of those with Jesus the Galilean.” But Peter denied it in front of everyone. “I don’t know what you’re talking about,” he said. Later, out by the gate, another servant girl noticed him and said to those standing around, “This man was with Jesus of Nazareth.” Again, Peter denied it, this time with an oath. “I don’t even know the man,” he said. A little later some of the other bystanders came over to Peter and said, “You must be one of them; we can tell by your Galilean accent.” Peter swore, “A curse on me if I’m lying - I don’t know the man!” And immediately the rooster crowed. Suddenly, Jesus’ words flashed through Peter’s mind: “Before the rooster crows, you will deny three times that you even know me.” And he went away, weeping bitterly.

**(Luke 22:61)** At that moment the Lord turned and looked at Peter. Suddenly, the Lord’s words flashed through Peter’s mind: “Before the rooster crows tomorrow morning, you will deny three times that you even know me.”

*Introduction*

When Jesus began to enlighten his disciples about what was soon to come one of them became a little **indignant**.

And even before Peter actually denies Jesus, which we read about in today’s Scripture text ... forms of denial were already **setting** in.

*Peter began to deny God's plan.*

Matt. 16:21-23 tells us ... From then on Jesus began to tell his disciples plainly that it was necessary for him to go to Jerusalem, and that he would suffer many terrible things at the hands of the elders, the leading priests, and the teachers of religious law. He would be killed, but on the third day he would be raised from the dead. But Peter took him aside and began to reprimand him for saying such things. “Heaven forbid, Lord,” he said. “This will never happen to you!” Jesus turned to Peter and said, “Get away from me, Satan! You are a dangerous trap to me. You are seeing things merely from a human point of view, not from God’s.”

Jesus knew Peter didn't have in mind the things of God but of **men**. For Jesus to say what he did to Peter, it showed that Peter was not considering the will of God but only the will of **Peter**.

Peter wasn't thinking of the big picture; just **his** picture.

Listen, if we have the attitude of Peter we will **never** do the will of God and we will **never** come out of our comfort zone. Why? Because we will have in mind the things of man; not the things of God.

***Peter began to deny Jesus' prophecy.***

Even at the Last Supper, when Jesus reveals a prophecy concerning his death and the disciples' response, we have Peter vocalizing his **resistance**.

We read these words from Matt. 26:31-35, Then Jesus told them, "This very night you will all fall away on account of me, for it is written: 'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.' But after I have risen, I will go ahead of you into Galilee." Peter replied, "Even if all fall away on account of you, I never will." "I tell you the truth," Jesus answered, "this very night, before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times." But Peter declared, "Even if I have to die with you, I will never disown you." And all the other disciples said the same."

Peter's **pride** caused him to dismiss Jesus' **prophecy**. When pride surfaces we don't listen. We don't listen to the Holy Spirit, we don't listen to **wise** counsel, we don't listen to God speaking through his **Word**. Peter fell into this trap because he thought he was more **solid** than he was.

We can think we're solid in the faith and that nothing can shake us but what ended up happening to Peter serves as a warning for us. When we don't take God's Word serious enough, we let our **defenses** down and become a **prime** target.

***Peter began to deny Jesus, Himself.***

When we're around people who don't follow Jesus what do we **say**? How do we **act**?

Peter caved into **fear**. Which is quite interesting. How does one go from pulling out a sword and cutting off an ear to being afraid of a little **servant** girl?

In Luke's version of events we see something quite surreal take place. After Peter's third denial and the rooster crowed Luke 22:61 says, "The Lord turned and looked straight at Peter." Can you imagine denying that you knew Jesus and then turning to **lock** eyes with him?

Have you ever betrayed someone and then you had to **face** them with the reality of what you've done? Do you remember the look of pain and disappointment in their eyes; the look that **pierced** your heart and caused you to understand the seriousness of what you did?

### ***Peter's redemptive ending.***

This story of betrayal does have a redemptive ending. Peter denied Jesus, but he was **convicted** and had **godly** sorrow. In John 21 we find Jesus commissioning and empowering Peter for ministry.

Maybe today you have discovered that Peter is a whole lot like **you**. Maybe at one point in your life you acknowledged that you knew Jesus but since then you have **drifted** away, living a life of denial.

But, maybe this morning you felt **convicted** with **godly** sorrow and you no longer want to betray your Savior.

Peter wasn't brought to conviction until he **locked** eyes with Jesus and recognized that he had **sinned** against his Lord. May we **turn** our eyes upon Jesus once again.