



# Rising After A Great Fall

**“And Peter remembered the word of Jesus, which said unto him, Before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice. And he went out, and wept bitterly” (Matthew 26:75).**

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“Now Peter sat without in the palace: and a damsel came unto him, saying, Thou also wast with Jesus of Galilee. 70 But he denied before them all, saying, I know not what thou sayest. 71 And when he was gone out into the porch, another maid saw him, and said unto them that were there, This fellow was also with Jesus of Nazareth. 72 And again he denied with an oath, I do not know the man. 73 And after a while came unto him they that stood by, and said to Peter, Surely thou also art one of them; for thy speech bewrayeth thee. 74 Then began he to curse and to swear, saying, I know not the man. And immediately the cock crew. 75 And Peter remembered the word of Jesus, which said unto him, Before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice. And he went out, and wept bitterly” (Matthew 26:69-75).

In our last study we learnt that Peter followed afar off after the arrest of Jesus (Matthew 26:58). This became the lure and trap that weakened his resolve, leading eventually to a great fall - his denial of Christ. The text highlights the following:

- 1) From following afar, Peter ended up sitting “without” in the palace (vs 69). Those who follow Jesus afar, will usually end up sitting “without”! **Look before you leap!**
- 2) A damsel saw him where he sat and said “Thou wast with Jesus of Galilee” (vs 69) and “he denied before them all, saying, I know not what thou sayest” (vs 70).
- 3) It probably dawned on him that where he sat was not a good place, so he relocated “into the porch” and right there “another maid saw him, and said unto them that were there, This fellow was also with Jesus of Nazareth” (vs 71).
- 4) On this occasion “he denied with an oath, I do not know the man” (vs 72).
- 5) As long as a person chooses to walk afar from Jesus, he will always encounter temptations that he will not have the power to overcome, because closeness to Jesus empowers a person to overcome as explained in 2 Corinthians 2:14 “Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place” **With Jesus we overcome,**

**“For a just man falleth seven times, and riseth up again” (Proverbs 24:16).**

without Him, we can prevail nothing.

- 6) “And after a while came unto him they that stood by, and said to Peter, Surely thou also art one of them; for thy speech bewrayeth thee” (vs 73). Note the last phrase “thy speech bewrayeth thee”. Your speech will always reveal who you are!
- 7) Despite being so identified, Peter continued to deny terrifically - “Then began he to curse and to swear, saying, I know not the man” (vs 74). Shouting louder does not erase the evidence. **Think before you talk!**
- 8) Note here the progressive nature of the temptation encounters beginning with a damsel to a maid and then “they that stood by”.
- 9) Note also the progressive nature of the denials going from “I know not what thou sayest” to a denial with an oath “I know not the man” and finally he “began to curse and to swear, saying, I know not that man”. It always takes a bigger sin to cover up the previous smaller one. STOP it before it drags you too low!
- 10) Prophecy was being fulfilled even without Peter realising it “And immediately the cock crew. And Peter remembered the word of Jesus, which said unto him, Before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice” (vs 74,75).
- 11) Peter was devastated and emotionally overwhelmed on realising what he had just done. “And he went out, and wept bitterly” (vs 75).
- 12) There is always hope of a new beginning for any sinner who will repent and return to Jesus. Do not just lie down there in sorrow and defeat. Rise and go to Jesus. He will forgive and restore you. There is always room to rise after every fall (1 John 2:1). **The downfall of a man is not always necessarily the end of his life. So, rise up and repent quickly!** “For a just man falleth seven times, and riseth up again” (Proverbs 24:16).