

## SOONER OR LATER EVERYBODY SINS

### Matthew 26:69-75

**Introduction:** Go back to that fateful night:

- The passover supper finished, the Lord's Supper initiated and finished, hours together with Jesus teaching and praying. Peter, James and John had spent private time with Jesus in the Garden. Soldiers came to arrest Jesus after Judas betrayed Him with a kiss, then Peter drew a sword and risked his life to defend Jesus. Jesus was taken away and Peter followed at a distance and later that night Peter denied three times knowing Jesus.
- A lesson to be learned here is that no matter who you are or how hard you try, sooner or later you will sin.

### I. WHAT BROUGHT ABOUT PETER'S DOWNFALL?

- 1. Peter was one of the Lord's most highly favored and honored disciples, what could have happened to cause Peter to sin?**
  - Peter was in the inner circle of the Master's friends and appears to have been the main spokesman for the group.
- 2. Peter's fall is especially noticed because he had been plainly warned just hours before.**
  - Jesus had just told Peter hours earlier what was going to happen in the clearest terms.
    - Satan was after Peter and Peter's faith would be fiercely attacked. Peter needed to watch and pray that he not enter into temptation.
  - However Peter walked headlong into his sin, just as Jesus said he would.
- 3. Peter's guilt is aggravated by the fact that it came so soon after he had boldly declared his loyalty and faithfulness to Jesus.**
  - Just hours before Peter had been bragging that he would be the last to let Jesus down.
- 4. Peter's fall did not happen all at once but by degrees.**
  - It is not suddenly that most fall into deep sin. There are usually symptoms that something is wrong and usually those symptoms are ignored.
  - It is in private that most fall long before they fall in public.
  - Peter was far too confident and proud. Jesus had warned him to watch and pray but instead he took a nap.
    - He followed Jesus at a distance, joining Jesus' enemies and denied knowing Jesus little by little, pretending not to understand the first question, then denied knowing him at the second and finally at the third, used profanity to emphasize that he was telling the truth.
- 5. Remember, all this was done within eye and ear contact of Jesus who was at that very time suffering for him and the others.**

## II. HOW DID PETER RECOVER?

### 1. God stepped in.

- The rooster began to crow. God used a rooster to reach the heart of Peter.
- God has other "roosters" to reach and awaken other believers also.

### 2. A work of Grace was done.

- Jesus turned to look at Peter when the rooster crowed but Peter didn't look back .
- Jesus' look seemed to say, "I have loved you with an everlasting love, I chose you, you didn't choose me, I have given you eternal life and you shall never perish. Peter, I will never leave you nor forsake you."

### 3. The Word of the Lord went to work.

- Peter remembered the words of Jesus, so must every believer.
- It was the Word of the Lord that graciously, gently and effectually brought Peter's heart back.
- The Word of the Lord always does it's work even if it seems to have no immediate effect.

### 4. The Prayer of Jesus had worked.

- Jesus had prayed for Peter and Jesus prays for all those who believe in Him.  
(1 John 2:1-2)
- The believer shall never be separated from Jesus' love, favor, mercy, care or His saving power.

## III. PETER WAS RESTORED

1. **Peter left that place.** Immediately he left with his heart broken for what he had just done.

### 2. Peter cried bitterly.

- Sin never is a light thing and when Peter realized what he had done he could not stand himself and his heart was crushed within him.
- Thus it should always be when one sins. The heart should be crushed and disgust with one's self should be felt.
- *1 John 1:9*

## CONCLUSION:

### 1. Any believer could put his/her name in the place of Peter's in this account.

- There is no evil in this world that any believer is not capable of committing.

### 2. Salvation is entirely of the Lord from start to finish and no one is ever "kicked out once in."

### 3. Upon sinning, one must leave that sin quickly and return to Jesus in sincere repentance.