
[Mt 26:30; Mk 14:26; Lk 22:39; Jn 18:1] *And after singing a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives and the disciples also followed Him. He went forth with His disciples over the ravine of the Kidron, where there was a garden, into which He Himself entered, and His disciples. [Lk 22:40(a)] When Jesus arrived at this place, [Mt 26:31; Mk 14:27] Jesus said to them “You will all fall away because of Me this night, for it is written, ‘I will strike down the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.’*

¹ [Mt 26:32; Mk 24:28] *But after I have been raised, I will go before you to Galilee.” [Mt 26:33; Mk 14:29] But Peter said to Him, “Even though all may fall away because of You, I will never fall away.”*

[A Blended Text]

This Blended Text above records Jesus and His disciples going out to the Garden of Gethsemane; where Jesus prayed before His arrest and mockery of a trial which preceded His crucifixion. Since this series is on *Events In the Ministry of Peter*, please focus on Peter’s statement in the last line above. Here Peter arrogantly and pridefully declared,

“Even though all may fall away because of You, I WILL NEVER FALL AWAY.”

Then in Matthew 26:34 Jesus said to Peter,

“Truly I say to you that this very night, before a cock crows, you will deny Me three times.”

Mark was moved to say it this way in Mark 14:30,

“Truly I say to you, that you yourself this very night, before a cock crows twice, will three times deny Me.”

As you read on, in Mark 14:31 and Matthew 26:35 you learn that,

[Mk 14:31 + Mt 26:35] *... Peter kept saying insistently, “Even if I have to die with You, I will not deny You!” And they all were also saying the same thing.*

Now jump ahead to John 18 where you learn in verse 15 that when Jesus was arrested and led away,

^[15] *... Simon Peter was following Jesus, and so was another disciple. Now that disciple was known to the high priest and entered with Jesus into the court of the high priest, ^[16] but Peter was standing at the door outside. So, the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out and spoke to the doorkeeper, and brought Peter in.*

Now listen! In John 18:17,

^[17] *The slave-girl... who kept the door said to Peter, “You are not also one of this man’s disciples, are you?” [Peter] said, “I AM NOT.”*

That’s ONE!

Next, in John 28:18,25 you are told,

^[18] *Now the slaves and the officers were standing there, having made a charcoal fire, for it was cold and they were warming themselves; and Peter also was with them, standing and warming himself. ... ^[25] ... They said therefore to him, “You are not also one of His disciples, are you?” [Peter] denied it, saying, “I AM NOT.”*

That’s TWO!

¹ Sited from Zechariah 13:7.

Now looking at John 18:26-27 you learn that,

^[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?"* ^[27] *Peter therefore DENIED IT AGAIN...*

That's THREE, "and immediately a cock crowed".²

The Holy Spirit then moved Luke to write in Luke 22:61-62 that,

^[61] *... the Lord turned and looked at Peter. Then Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how He had said to him, "Before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times."* ^[62] *So Peter went out and wept bitterly.*

I can only speak for myself, but I must confess that in the past, and even closer times, there have been many times I have spoken or acted in ways that were denials that I was a disciple of Jesus my Lord. What about you?

Previous to these things, before Jesus prayed in the Garden before His arrest, He had instructed His disciples in Luke 22:40(b) saying,

^[40(b)] *"PRAY that YOU MAY NOT ENTER INTO TEMPTATION."*

Then after rising from prayer, in Luke 22:45,

[Jesus] came to the disciples and found them sleeping from sorrow, and said to [Peter], "Why are you sleeping? Rise and pray that you may not enter into temptation."

I strongly believe that the reason God breathed the WORDS of Luke 22:45 and the Holy Spirit moved Luke to write these WORDS, was to instruct us that we need to be a people of PRAYER that WE DO NOT ENTER INTO TEMPTATION and DENY the Lord Jesus! Think about it!

Together with this, remember that 1 Corinthians 10:12-13 instructs you,

^[12] *Therefore let the one who thinks they stand take heed unless they fall.* ^[13] *No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to all and God is faithful, Who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, that you may be able to endure it.*

Regarding this, would you please join with me in prayer.

Father, I present to You an offering of thanksgiving today for teaching us that we are not to arrogantly boast that we will never deny the Lord Jesus. Remind us often each day that we are to pray that we do not fall into temptation. Remind us to pray for the way of escape that we might be able to endure and not deny You, Jesus, or Your Holy Spirit. I ask You to do this for us through the authority of the name of the Lord Jesus. Amen!

Please meditate and pray on these things!

Louise and I pray this will help to both enlighten and encourage you to **know in a greater way** the **One** Who promises in His Word to never leave you nor forsake you [Hebrews 13:5; Deuteronomy 31:6,8]!

*BECAUSE I DO NOT WANT TO FALL AWAY FROM MY LORD
BY ARROGANTLY DENYING HIM! – tom!*

² Also see Matthew 26:69; Mark 14:66-72; and Luke 22:54-62.