

## **Mark 14:66-72**

<sup>66</sup> Now as Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant girls of the high priest came. <sup>67</sup> And when she saw Peter warming himself, she looked at him and said, "You also were with Jesus of Nazareth."

<sup>68</sup> But he denied it, saying, "I neither know nor understand what you are saying." And he went out on the porch, and a rooster crowed.

<sup>69</sup> And the servant girl saw him again, and began to say to those who stood by, "This is *one* of them." <sup>70</sup> But he denied it again. And a little later those who stood by said to Peter again, "Surely you are *one* of them; for you are a Galilean, and your speech shows *it*."

<sup>71</sup> Then he began to curse and swear, "I do not know this Man of whom you speak!"

<sup>72</sup> A second time *the* rooster crowed. Then Peter called to mind the word that Jesus had said to him, "**Before the rooster crows twice, you will deny Me three times.**" And when he thought about it, he wept.

1. Mark is winding down his writing on the life of Jesus
  - a. Most scholars agree that Peter is the inspiration of this book
2. He's shown us snap shots of Jesus' Words, His Works and His Heart
  - a. Jesus is in the beginning stages of His trial
  - b. While He's is being questioned by Caiaphas and the Sanhedrin, Peter is downstairs in the courtyard

## **I. Crisis of faith**

1. Peter is going through one of the most challenging times of his life
  - a. This is tougher than leaving his family & business to follow Jesus
  - b. It's tougher than being in prison with 16 soldiers around
  - c. Tougher than the persecution the Early Church will experience
  
2. **Peter is experiencing a crisis of faith**
  - a. The time when your expectations and reality collide
  - b. Periods of intense doubt and internal conflict about one's preconceived beliefs or life decisions (Wikipedia)
  - c. When what I expect to happen and what actually happens don't line up
  - d. Or when a prolonged period passes between God's promise and it's fulfillment, this can bring a crisis of faith
  
3. As we look at this story, please understand that all that was written is for our benefit
  - a. God wants to teach us something
  - b. Much of the commentary on this passage as been
    - i. Don't be a distant follower of Jesus
    - ii. Don't hang out with the wrong crowd
    - iii. Don't deny the Lord...
      1. All of which is true

2. But is that why this was written?

3. It is written for us to learn from and glean insight into our own lives

**4. Peter's world was unraveling**

**a.** Although Jesus warned that He would be condemned, crucified and rise again

**b.** Peter couldn't understand it

**c.** He rejected the idea as crazy

**d.** This cannot be God's plan or God's best

i. Where is the victory?

ii. Where is the Son of David?

iii. Where is the power?

iv. Where is the deliverance and freedom?

**e.** He's in a difficult time where his world is caving in

i. He's witnessed the power of God

ii. He's participated in that power

iii. God used him and the others in great ways

- f.** Peter is expecting Jesus to lead Israel out of bondage
    - i. Anything other than this is a total loss to Peter
  - g.** Peter, I thought you loved the Lord
    - 1. How could he get to this level of denying Him?
  - h. It's easy to kick someone when they are down**
  - i.** We do it to others because we often do it to ourselves
  - j.** Especially when we feel like we're directly responsible
    - i. How do we handle a situation where we are the cause?
5. This passage is not belittling Peter or looking down at him
- a.** It's an honest account of what happens during challenging times
    - i. when faith is tested
6. **Peter is not the only one to experience a crisis of faith**
- a. Abraham had a crisis of faith**
    - i. God promised Abraham to make him a great nation
      - 1. About 10 years go by and no children
    - ii. Ch. 15 God appears to him, tells him not to fear and that God is his shield

1. Abraham: What can you give me since I remain childless?
- iii. God promised a son and he believed God
1. And it was accounted to him as righteousness
  2. Ch. 16 Sarah introduces Hagar into the picture
  3. From one perspective, Abraham believes God
    - a. From another, he's confused by his situation
- iv. Abraham is facing a crisis of faith
1. God told him that he'll inherit the land (have offspring)
  2. He's waited a long time and no children yet
  - 3. He's not able to reconcile the promise of God with what he sees in the natural**
    - a. Why are you doubting God Abraham?
    - b. 10 years is a long time (now 85 years old)
      - i. What I'm expecting and what's happening are not lining up
      - ii. Abraham feared missing the promise that God had for him
      - iii. He went through a crisis of faith

v. **Is there something that you are waiting for from God?**

1. A promise that has not yet been fulfilled?

**b. David had a crisis of faith**

- i. A simple shepherd boy in the field
- ii. Anointed as king by Samuel
- iii. God's hand is on him
  1. He wins a great battle against Goliath
  2. He's proclaimed as a hero by people
  3. He's promoted by King Saul as a leader
    - a. He's in love with God and has favor with people
  4. In a moment, he's being chased by Saul
- iv. David doesn't know what to do or where to go
- v. He flees to Achish, king of Gath (Abimelech)
- vi. He scratches at door of the gate and lets saliva go down his beard
  1. He's having a crisis of faith
  2. This is not how things should turn out
  3. I'm not sure how things should be

- a. But this is certainly not it
- 4. Many times, we look at our life and say the same

**c. John the Baptist had a crisis of faith in Matt 11**

- i. John's birth was announced by Gabriel
- ii. He was the forerunner of Jesus
  - 1. People were turning from sin under his ministry
  - 2. Some question if he's the Messiah because of his following
    - a. Now John is thrown into prison
      - i. This is not what I expected
- iii. John asks the question
- iv. Are you the Messiah, or should we look for another?
  - 1. He's having a crisis of faith
  - 2. John may have feared an early death (we don't know)
  - 3. Confusion certainly played into the question of John to Jesus
- v. Some may ask, what's the point of John's imprisonment?

1. We can learn that John's life would serve as an encouragement to millions of persecuted believers
  - a. Millions died in the early days of Christianity
  - b. Multitudes are being persecuted today
    - i. Wrongful imprisonments
    - ii. Public and private beheadings
  - c. John didn't know it, but his life is a source of hope and faith to many people
- vi. Was Jesus angry with John?
- vii. How did Jesus view John?
  1. He praised John to others
  2. He sent a word to remind John of God's purpose
- viii. In many of the cases, fear was the predominant factor
- ix. Fear is the antithesis of faith
- x. **We face different types of fears**
  1. God wants to deliver us from all fears



## 7. What can we glean from this?

### a. We are not alone

- i. One of the enemies traps is to make us believe we are the only ones

### b. God can use these times to perfect our faith

- i. Faith without hardship isn't really faith
- ii. The darker things get, the brighter we'll see Jesus
  1. **2 Cor 1:8** We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about the troubles we experienced in the province of Asia. We were under great pressure, far beyond our ability to endure, so that we despaired of life itself. <sup>9</sup> Indeed, we felt we had received the sentence of death. But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead. <sup>10</sup> He has delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us again. On him we have set our hope that he will continue to deliver us

### c. These illustrations stand in contrast as a before and after

- i. **Abraham** is now known as the father of the faith
  1. He may have feared not receiving the promise
    - a. His story teaches us that if the promise delay's, wait for it

- i. Have you received a delayed promise?
  - ii. **David** is known as the sweet psalmist of Israel
    - 1. He once feared for his life
      - a. Put your trust in your heavenly Father who removes all of your fears
        - i. Is God orchestrating the divine potter's wheel?
  - iii. **John** the Baptist is known as the greatest of the prophets
    - 1. He feared missing God's perfect will
      - a. Your life is about you. God may use it as an example to encourage others (i.e. Job)
  - iv. **Peter** is known as the pillar in the church
    - 1. He feared a servant girl / being affiliated with Christ when it wasn't popular
    - 2. Peter, I will give you courage to face the most challenging circumstances
    - 3.** It's an encouragement to the weakest of us today that God can change the weak into a bold witness
- 8. It's telling us that God is able to use the most difficult of crisis of faith and use them for His glory

9. We have a response role to play

**a.** David's response is the clearest to me

- i. When my father and mother forsake me
- ii. When the king forsakes me
- iii. When my friends forsake me
  - 1. The Lord will take care of me

**b. Psalm 34**

- i. I will bless the Lord despite my situation
- ii. God did not bring me this far to leave me now
  - 1. He who began a good work...
- iii. As I seek God, my situations don't change, I do
- iv. I encourage others to taste and see the Lord's goodness

