

A Recipe for Denying Christ

Luke 22:54-62

Introduction:

- A. Peter strongly denied Jesus 3 times. (vv. 57-60).
 - 1. After being warned. (Mt. 26:34).
 - 2. After saying he would not. (v. 33; Mt. 26:35).
- B. Peter demonstrates three-fold recipe for denying Jesus.

Discussion:

I. Peter said, “I Will Never Be Made to Stumble” (Matt. 26:33)

- A. Over-confidence is dangerous.
 - 1. Paul confident, yet cautious. (Cf. 1 Cor. 9:26, 27)
 - 2. Paul warns against over-confidence (1 Cor. 10:12).
- B. Pride goes before fall. (Prov. 16:18,19; cf. 1 Tim. 3:6)

II. “Peter Followed at a Distance” (V. 54).

- A. Too far for really serve His Lord.
 - 1. Many too far to really know will - seldom study.
 - 2. Many too far to really work.
 - 3. Many too far to really worship.
- B. Too far to defend His Lord.
 - 1. Must defend. (Phil. 1:17; Jude 3).
 - 2. Must stand with defenders. (2 Tim. 4:16).
- C. Too far to draw strength from His Lord. (cf. Jas. 4:8).
 - 1. Many put too much distance between selves and church.
 - 2. Many put too much distance between selves and faithful.
- D. Too far to be clearly identified with His Lord.
 - 1. Half-hearted loyalty. (Matt. 22:37; Phil. 3:7-8).
 - 2. Half-hearted following. (Rev. 3:15-17 cf. Josh. 24:15; 1 Kings 18:17,18,21).

III. “Peter Sat among Them” (v. 55).

- A. Placed self in position conducive to denying His Lord. (cf. 1 Cor. 15:33).
 - 1. Avoid places, people and positions where would not wholeheartedly confess Christ.
 - a. Can't avoid all contact with sinful men. (1 Cor. 5:9,10; Jno. 17:15,16).
 - b. Can avoid tempting circumstances: entertainment, social, civic, political.
 - 2. Avoid unequal yoking with unbelievers. (2 Cor. 6:14,17).
- B. Cast influence with enemies of Christ under pressure.
 - 1. The Pressure of Persecution.
 - 2. The Pressure of Popularity.
 - 3. The Pressure of Peace.
 - 4. The Pressure of Conformity.
 - 5. The Pressure of Ease.
 - 6. The Pressure of Materialism.

Conclusion:

- A. If you are a Christian: Follow Jesus closely.
- B. If you are not a Christian: Begin following today.