

# What a Difference a Few Hours Can Make?

Luke 22:31-34; 54-62

## Introduction:

- A. It took Peter only a few hours to go from “I will never” to I have.
- B. Have known many to follow the same route.
- C. Peter made three tragic mistakes:

## Discussion:

### **I. He Got Too Far from the Lord (v. 54)**

- A. He had been very close.
  - 1. At the transfiguration (Matt. 17:1-5)
  - 2. In Gethsemane (Mark 14:32-33).
  - 3. Defended him with sword (John 18:10)
- B. Now he was just a little too far.
  - 1. Too far to really serve or help.
  - 2. Too far to defend.
  - 3. Too far to be clearly identified.
- C. We need stay close to the Lord
  - 1. By complete submission to His will.(Jas. 4:7-10).
  - 2. By keeping heart close to Him (Matt. 15:8).
  - 3. By feeding regularly on His word (Acts 17:11; 2 Tim. 4:1-4; Rom. 10:17).
  - 4. By constant communion with Him in worship (Acts 2:42; 1 Thess. 5:17)
  - 5. By staying close to His people.
    - a. Worshiping with them (Heb. 10:25; Acts 20:7).
    - b. Associating with them (Acts 2:46).

### **II. He Got Too Close to the Lord’s Enemies (v. 55).**

- A. It made it easier to deny than to confess (vv. 56-60).
- B. The danger of evil companionship – moral and religious (1 Cor. 15:33).
  - 1. Danger in “running with wrong crowd” in religion as well a morals (context of verse)
  - 2. Not just personal companionship – reading and viewing material.
  - 3. Can produce a desire to conform or a fear of non-conformity.
- C. Cannot avoid all association with sinners (cf. 1 Cor. 5:9,10)
  - 1. Keep guard up when must associate.
  - 2. Do not allow yourself to be “unequally yoked” (2 Cor. 6:14, 17).

### **III. He Got Too Confident in Himself (vv. 33; Matt. 26:33).**

- A. Overestimated own strength and underestimated strength of temptation.
- B. The danger of over-confidence.
  - 1. Paul was confident, but cautious (1 Cor. 9:26, 27).
  - 2. Paul warns against over-confidence (1 Cor. 10:12 and context).
- C. Pride goes before the fall (Prov. 16:18, 19; cf. 1 Tim. 3:6).

## Conclusion:

- A. Put your confidence in the Lord, not yourself.
- B. Keep yourself close to the Lord at all times.
- C. Keep yourself from evil associations – moral and religious.