



Today's Message

Date: September 4, 2022
Speaker: Pastor Steven Thomas
Title: *Denial!*

Text: Luke 22:54–62 (ESV)

⁵⁴ Then they seized him and led him away, bringing him into the high priest's house, and Peter was following at a distance. ⁵⁵ And when they had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and sat down together, Peter sat down among them. ⁵⁶ Then a servant girl, seeing him as he sat in the light and looking closely at him, said, "This man also was with him." ⁵⁷ But he denied it, saying, "Woman, I do not know him." ⁵⁸ And a little later someone else saw him and said, "You also are one of them." But Peter said, "Man, I am not." ⁵⁹ And after an interval of about an hour still another insisted, saying, "Certainly this man also was with him, for he too is a Galilean." ⁶⁰ But Peter said, "Man, I do not know what you are talking about." And immediately, while he was still speaking, the rooster crowed. ⁶¹ And the Lord turned and looked at Peter. And Peter remembered the saying of the Lord, how he had said to him, "Before the rooster crows today, you will deny me three times." ⁶² And he went out and wept bitterly.

Introduction: Throughout the events of Thursday evening, Jesus spoke truth to prepare the disciples for what was about to happen. They were dull of hearing, never imagining the kind of failure they would fall into. Worst of all was Peter. He presents us with a vivid case study in failure. After all, if even Peter failed, anyone could.

I. Peter did not see the warning signs of his own failure.

He was in danger of failure because:

- A. He trusted his own wisdom.
- B. He believed he was superior to others.
- C. He discounted his own weakness.

II. Peter's failure was worse than he could have imagined.

- A. In fear, he denied the Lord:
 - 1. He denied him publicly
 - 2. He denied him repeatedly.
 - 3. He denied him emphatically.
- B. In fear, he forgot that the Lord knew.

III. Peter responded biblically to his failure.

- A. He responded with godly sorrow.
- B. He responded with repentance.

IV. Peter immediately began to rebuild his life after failure.

- A. He demonstrated love for Christ by serving others.
- B. He boldly testified of God's grace extended to him.
- C. He humbly submitted to correction from godly men.

Today's take-home truth: If Peter could fail, none of us is immune; let us follow Peter's example.

Implications: