

## Studies in I Peter (4)

### Peter-- The Making of a Man of God

#### Introduction

- A. Through the life of the Apostle Peter we gain a glimpse into those days when the Lord Jesus was here upon earth.
- B. There is a striking similarity between the way the Savior ministered to Peter and the way he seeks to relate to us today. The truths He taught are eternal and are designed to instruct and encourage us. The Lord Jesus is our Prophet, Priest, and King.

#### **IV. Peter's Denial of the Lord Jesus.** Luke 22:56-61

*But a certain maid beheld him ... and said, This man was also with him. And He denied him ... And Peter said, Man I know not what thou sayest. And immediately, while he yet spake, the cock crew. And the Lord turned and looked upon Peter.*

Comment: When the Lord Jesus needed the support of His disciples they abandoned Him. Peter and John were in the crowd at his trial, but John was silent and Peter denied Him. How could Peter, who had been taught so much, and who affirmed his allegiance so strongly, do such a thing?

#### A. The Savior's preparation for Peter.

1. The prophetic warning. Mark 14:27

*And Jesus said unto them, All ye shall be offended because of me this night, for it is written, I will smite the shepherd, and the sheep shall be scattered ...*

2. The personal warning. Luke 22:31,32

*And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat. But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not, and when you are converted, strengthen thy brethren.*

3. The spiritual instruction. John 13:37-14:1

*Peter said unto him ... I will lay down my life for they sake ... Jesus answered Him ... The cock shall not crow, till thou has denied me thrice. Let not your heart be troubled. Ye believe in God, believe also in me.*

Comment: The Lord Jesus knew how weak Peter was inside. By warning him and asking for his trust the Savior wanted Peter to admit his need and ask for help.

B. The steps to Peter's denial.

1. Unbelief. Mark 14:27-31

*I will smite the shepherd, and the sheep shall be scattered... But Peter said unto him, Although all shall be offended, yet will not I.*  
(See also Luke 22:31-33)

2. Self-confidence. Mark 14:31

*But he (Peter) spake the more vehemently, If I should die with thee, I will not deny thee in any wise.*

3. Prayerlessness. Mark 14:37

*And he (the Lord Jesus) cometh, and findeth them sleeping, and saith unto Peter, Simon, sleepest thou? Couldst not thou watch one hour?*

4. Zeal without knowledge. Mark 14:46,47 (John 18:10,11)

*And they laid their hands on him (the Lord Jesus), and took him. And one of them that stood by drew a sword, and smote a servant of the high priest, and cut off his ear.*

5. Disassociation. Mark 14:50-54

*And they all forsook him, and fled ... And Peter followed him afar off ....*

6. Identification with non-Christians. Mark 14:54

*And Peter followed him afar off, even unto the palace of the high priest. And he sat with the servants, and warmed himself at the fire.*

7. Outright denial. Luke 22:56-61

*And he denied him ... And the Lord turned and looked upon Peter.*

- Comment:
1. The Lord Jesus sought to prepare Peter for the pressure He knew His disciple was to endure. Peter failed to respond. His self-confidence blinded him to his need and to the Savior's offer of help.
  2. For over two years Peter had heard the Savior teach and had observed His miracles. Peter had also taught and had undoubtedly worked miracles in the name of Jesus Christ.
  3. With such a background how could Peter deny the Lord? The answer is clear -- it is our inner need that is the most difficult to admit. It took the denial to make Peter aware of his neglect.
  4. The very truths Peter failed to appropriate -- he emphasizes in his Epistles. See II Peter 1:4-9