

March 26, 2017
The Last 24 - Mark's Passion
The Denial
Pastor Rick Rufenacht



Mark 14:66 - 72

Everyone Can Fail.

We don't really know us.

Luke 22:31-34 Prov 16:18 Ro 12:3 1Co 10:12

When we admit, God remits.

John 21:15-17 1 John 1:9

Think of a time in your life where you were "caught with your hand in the cookie jar" or did something that you swore you would never do. How did you feel when you were exposed? How did you react when caught?

Read Acts 2: 22-24; 32-39. How is the Peter of Acts 2 different from the Peter of only two months earlier, when he swore to stand with Jesus, but instead denied him three times? Why do you think he is different?

Read Matthew 26:33-35; 69-75.

How would you describe Peter as a disciple?
What do you think prompted his denials?
What did he fear?

How and when are you tempted, or have you been tempted to avoid being identified with Jesus or his cause?

What is it you fear?
What is it you would lose?
In what ways do you find yourself denying Jesus?
In what ways do you see others denying Jesus?

Read John 21: 1-17. How would you feel if you were in Peter's shoes knowing that you had just denied knowing Jesus?

Fishing during this time was done by using large nets to surround schools of fish. Once the fish were surrounded, the fishermen would cast their nets over and haul the fish in. Jesus asked the fishermen to cast their nets on the opposite side of the boat. How does this signal an act of faith?

Read Matthew 16:14 - 18

In what ways does Peter appear to be the model disciple?

The one thing that Jesus wants us all to become is his disciples.

How would you define disciple?
What are the strengths?
What are the weaknesses?

Read 1 Cor 10:11-12

If Peter is an example for us, what can we learn from him to help us become more solid as believers?

Although Peter failed Jesus' test by denying him, God forgave Peter and resurrected his faith. He fulfilled Jesus' request - that he repent and strengthen his brothers as written in Luke 22. Peter was not only forgiven of his denial of Christ, he was the one to enter the empty tomb where Jesus was laid and the one whom God uses to preach to the crowd on the Day of Pentecost.

In what ways does the resurrection impact your daily life? What can you learn from Peter about dealing with sin and temptation in your own life?

Read 1 John 1:9. Remember a time when you failed Jesus. Why is it important to revisit that time and bring it before God to be restored? How can harboring past failures hinder future ministry?

The very purpose of Christ's death is for the forgiveness of sin. The black mark against sinners required a perfect sacrifice - Jesus. Our redemption is that we are forgiven because of his suffering on the cross and resurrection from the dead on the third day.

This week, pray for each other that God will give you the strength in times of crisis to stand up for Jesus rather than denying him or keeping quiet.