

# Why Did Peter Fail?

by J.R. Miller

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*Peter's denial of Jesus serves as a reminder of the importance of humility and the forgiving nature of Jesus.*

**Scripture:** Matthew 26:69

**Topics:** "Redemption", "Failure"

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## Description

J.R. Miller reflects on the tragic denial of Jesus by Peter, a man who was deeply devoted and favored among the apostles. Despite his strong faith and close relationship with Jesus, Peter's self-confidence led to his downfall, as he failed to remain vigilant and instead sought comfort among those who opposed Christ. His denial was compounded by his decision to follow Jesus from a distance and to mingle with those who would challenge his loyalty. Yet, amidst Peter's failure, the unwavering love and grace of Jesus shone through, demonstrating that even in our weakest moments, God's compassion can restore us. Ultimately, it was the look of Jesus that brought Peter back from despair.

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## Transcript

One of the saddest disappointments of the story of our Lord's last days, is Peter's denial of his Master. If the gospel narrative were fiction, this event would not be in it. We would have said it was impossible. Peter loved Jesus deeply and truly. He had received the name of "the rock". For three years he had been under the teaching and in the constant companionship of Jesus. He had special honor and favor in the apostle-family. His name stands always first in the list, and he was one of the three of the Master's closest personal friends. It was he who had made the great confession, which won from Jesus such commendation.

We would have said that he was the last of the apostles who would deny his Lord. Yet, in spite of all, this bravest, most favored apostle, this man of rock--fell most ignominiously; fell, too, at a time when friendship to his Master ought to have made him truest and most loyal.

Why did he fail? His self-confidence made him weak. He slept in the Garden--when he ought to have been watching. Then he drew his sword to defend his Master. His next mistake was in following Jesus afar off. His last error was in joining the company by the fire--when he came in. The denial was already more than half made when he sat down among the officers, trying to appear as one of them. It was easy then, when the maid twitted him with being of the Galilean's party, to deny it.

Against the pitiful weakness and cowardness of Peter, shine the faithfulness and graciousness of the Master. He heard it all--the denial thrice repeated, and the oaths and curses--He heard it all--but loved on. It was this marvelous forbearance that saved Peter. It was the Master's look that saved him.

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