

Mark 10:45 For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.

46- Can We Know Our Own Heart?

Mark 14:27-31, 66-72

Mark 14:27-31 And Jesus saith 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. 28 But after that I am risen, I will go before you into Galilee. 29 But Peter said unto him, Although all shall be offended, yet will not I. 30 And Jesus saith unto him, Verily I say unto thee, That this day, even in this night, before the cock crow twice, thou shalt deny me thrice. 31 But he spake the more vehemently, If I should die with thee, I will not deny thee in any wise. Likewise also said they all.

Mark 14:66-72 And as Peter was beneath in the palace, there cometh one of the maids of the high priest: 67 And when she saw Peter warming himself, she looked upon him, and said, And thou also wast with Jesus of Nazareth. 68 But he denied, saying, I know not, neither understand I what thou sayest. And he went out into the porch; and the cock crew. 69 And a maid saw him again, and began to say to them that stood by, This is one of them. 70 And he denied it again. And a little after, they that stood by said again to Peter, Surely thou art one of them: for thou art a Galilaean, and thy speech agreeth thereto. 71 But he began to curse and to swear, saying, I know not this man of whom ye speak. 72 And the second time the cock crew. And Peter called to mind the word that Jesus said unto him, Before the cock crow twice, thou shalt deny me thrice. And when he thought thereon, he wept.

In a moment of pride and self-deception you will often hear people say, "I would never do that." But I asked the question, can we know our own heart? Is it possible to absolutely say I would never? We see this illustrated in the life of the Apostle Peter. So I ask the question, "Can we trust our own heart."

Jesus, remember had just announce a short time before that one of these men would betray him. They were all questioning their heart and searching if it could be them. They move to the Mount of Olives and He makes another startling announcement to them concerning what they were capable of doing.

To unpack the Scripture in this section we will look at the events with some parenthetical verses laid aside for another time.

I- The Prediction:

Mark 14:27 And Jesus saith unto them, All ye shall be offended because of me this night... He had told them that one would betray Him but now He says that all of them would be offended because of Him that night. The words that are translated shall be offended in the KJV is given to us as "**all of you will run away**" in HCSB.

Perhaps the clearest rendering is given by *The Message*, "**You're all going to feel that your world is falling apart and that it's my fault.**"

Wuest says, "*The word "offended" is skandalizō "to find occasion of stumbling" in another, "to see in another what I disapprove of and what hinders me from acknowledging his authority." The disciples deserted their Lord and fled.*"

I am sure that the fact that all of them would stumble in the next few hours was disconcerting to them.

This prediction of Jesus was based on the prophecy of the Old Testament. He says in **Mark 14:27b ...For it is written, I will smite the shepherd, and the sheep shall be scattered.** This is from the Old Testament prophet Zechariah. **Zechariah 13:7 Awake, O sword, against my shepherd, and against the man that is my fellow, saith the LORD of hosts: smite the shepherd, and the sheep shall be scattered: and I will turn mine hand upon the little ones.**

Jesus does not seem to be making this as an accusation but as simply a prediction. This is indicated here by the promise of better times to come. **Mark 14:28 But after that I am risen, I will go before you into Galilee.**

II- The Boast:

You may have heard it said, "our mouth can right check that we cannot cash." Peter, like many of us, is full of bravado and write the check. **Mark 14:29 But Peter said unto him, Although all shall be offended, yet will not I.**

Can you almost here Peter as he tells the Lord that it would be the others who would fail him. That was for the weak believer not someone like him who was strong. Not me...

Would you not agree that Peter did not know his own heart? He did not recognize his potential weakness. He was trusting in himself to be strong.

We have an admonishment in the New Testament that speak about this type of self-deception. Look at **1 Corinthians 10:11-13 Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come. 12 Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall. 13 There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.**

It is God who makes the way of escape and helps us to bear up under temptation.

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To make matters worse we see that after Jesus gives some specifics that Peter got ever more prideful and boastful. **Mark 14:30** *And Jesus saith unto him, Verily I say unto thee, That this day, even in this night, before the cock crow twice, thou shalt deny me thrice. 31 But he spake the more vehemently, If I should die with thee, I will not deny thee in any wise. Likewise also said they all.*

Vehemently, emphatically full of bluster. *The Pulpit Commentary* says:

The right reading...implies that he kept asserting over and over again. He was, no doubt, sincere in all this, but he had yet to learn his own weakness. St. Hilary says on this, "Peter was so carried away by the fervor of his zeal and love for Christ, that he regarded neither the weakness of his own flesh nor the truth of his Master's word."

This boasting of Peter also leads the others to assert the same thing. Did you notice that it says, *Likewise also said they all.*

I find this ironic considering that just a few minutes before they were all wondering if it could be them that betrayed Christ.

III- The Events Unfolded:

We are privileged to be able to see the rest of the events unfold for us quickly in the pages of the Bible. Life however does not always unfold so quickly and many times it is a long time before we realize the foolishness of our heart.

We turn our attention to later that night after Jesus was arrested and taken to the high priest. Peter, by the way had cut off the servants ear in the garden. Now he finds himself near the palace.

Mark 14:66 *And as Peter was beneath in the palace, there cometh one of the maids of the high priest: 67 And when she saw Peter warming himself, she looked upon him, and said, And thou also wast with Jesus of Nazareth.*

This is the first time that Peter is accused of being one of the followers of Christ. It leads to the first denial. **Mark 14:68** *But he denied, saying, I know not, neither understand I what thou sayest. And he went out into the porch; and the cock crew.*

This is the wrong time of the day or night should be say for the rooster to be crowing. We do not have any hint that Peter even noticed this first time the rooster crowed.

Now he is hiding in the dark, hoping to avoid being recognized. This is a long way from where he wanted to be or claimed he would be is it not?

Mark 14:69 *And a maid saw him again, and began to say to them that stood by, This is one of them. 70 And he denied it again.*

Two chances to live up to the boast, two failures. The next come in a stronger fashion. **Mark 14:70b** *And a little after, they that stood by said again to Peter, Surely thou art one of them: for thou art a Galilaean, and thy speech agreeth thereto.*

Your accent is giving you away, you are with Him. Oh, my this is getting close to home now. **Mark 14:71** *But he began to curse and to swear, saying, I know not this man of whom ye speak.*

For the third time, just as Jesus had said, Peter denied the Lord. Each time it got farther away from where he thought his heart was.

IV- Weeping Heart:

If he did not notice the first crow, he certainly did the second one. **Mark 14:72** *And the second time the cock crew. And Peter called to mind the word that Jesus said unto him, Before the cock crow twice, thou shalt deny me thrice. And when he thought thereon, he wept.*

Peter understood that he had been deceived by his own heart. Let me make one statement as we close. *Broken men are of great value to God more than prideful men...*