

March 18, 2018

## “Redemption’s Song:

*The Gospels in Perfect Harmony”*

### It’s a Song of Failure: The Denial

*“And immediately the rooster crowed the second time. Suddenly, Jesus’ words flashed through Peter’s mind; ‘Before the rooster crows twice, you will deny three times that you even know me.’ And he broke down and wept.” Mark 14:72*

*Matt 26:58, 69-75; Mark 14:54, 66-72; Luke 22:54b-62; John 18:15-18, 25-27*

#### A. The setting...

1. The palatial mansion of Annas the High Priest was the scene for the trial of Jesus and was 6500 sq. ft. in size. The whole building was two stories high with the usable living space almost twice as large.
2. Peter gained entrance into the courtyard because John knew the High Priest.
3. Peter stood by the fire then moved into the shadows which actually gave him an eye contact vision of Jesus.
4. No other private residence of this size has been excavated anywhere in Israel.

*“They took Jesus to the high priest and all the chief priests, the elders and the teachers of the law came together. Peter followed Him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest. There he sat with the guards and warmed Himself at the fire.” Mark 14:53-54*

#### B. The denials...

*“Meanwhile, Peter followed Him at a distance and came to the high priest’s courtyard. He went in and sat with the guards and waited to see how it would all end.” Matthew 26:58*

1. A servant girl identified Peter as one of the disciples, and Peter denied it!

*“Meanwhile, Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. A servant girl came over and said to him, ‘You were one of those with Jesus the Galilean.’” Matthew 26:69*

*“But Peter denied it. “I don’t know what you’re talking about,” he said, and he went out into the entryway. Just then, a rooster crowed.” Mark 14:68*

*“Because it was cold, the household servants and the guards had made a charcoal fire. They stood around it, warming themselves, and Peter stood with them, warming himself.” John 18:18*

2. A second servant girl identified Peter, and Peter denied it!

*“Later, out by the gate, another servant girl noticed him and said to those standing around, ‘This man was with Jesus of Nazareth.’ Again Peter denied it, this time with an oath. ‘I don’t even know the man,’ he said.” Matthew 26:71-72*

3. A relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, accused him of being one of them, and Peter denied it!

*“But one of the household slaves of the high priest, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, asked, ‘Didn’t I see you out there in the olive grove with Jesus?’ Again Peter denied it. And immediately a rooster crowed.” John 18:26-27*

*“At that moment the Lord turned and looked at Peter. Suddenly, the Lord’s words flashed through Peter’s mind: ‘Before the rooster crows tomorrow morning, you will deny three times that you even know Me.’ Luke 22:61*

4. Peter wept bitterly over the reality of his denial.

*“And Peter left the courtyard, weeping bitterly.” Luke 22:62*

#### C. Peter’s regret and restoration...

*“Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift each of you like wheat. But I have pleaded in prayer for you, Simon, that your faith should not fail. So when you have repented and turned to Me again, strengthen your brothers.” Luke 22:31-32*

1. Peter was confident of his strength to stand with Jesus, no matter what!

*“No!” Peter insisted. ‘Even if I have to die with You, I will never deny You!’ And all the other disciples vowed the same.” Matthew 26:35*

2. Peter had caved into the pressure of the moment in spite of his determined resolve and previous declarations.

*“Then Peter said to Him, ‘We’ve given up everything to follow You. What will we get?’” Matthew 19:27*

3. When Peter heard the rooster and Jesus looked into his eyes, he remembered his promises that were broken.

*“At that moment the Lord turned and looked at Peter. Suddenly, the Lord’s words flashed through Peter’s mind...” Luke 22:61a*

4. Jesus restored Peter because Peter was willing to move beyond his regrets.

*“A third time He asked him, ‘Simon son of John, do you love Me?’ Peter was hurt that Jesus asked the question a third time. He said, ‘Lord, you know everything. You know that I love You.’” Jesus said, ‘Then feed My sheep.’” John 21:17*

#### D. Moving past regret...

*“Of all sad words of tongue or pen, the saddest are, ‘It might have been.’” John Greenleaf Whittier*

1. Unhealthy regret is damaging when it holds us captive to self-blame and continual fruitless rumination.
2. Healthy regret has been labeled as the highest of negative emotions.
  - a. It helps to make sense of the world.
  - b. It helps avoid future negative behaviors.
  - c. It helps gain insight.
  - d. It helps achieve social harmony.
  - e. It helps improve our ability to approach desired opportunities. \*Neal Roese Northwestern University
3. So, re-evaluate the situation.

*“This is a trustworthy saying, and everyone should accept it: ‘Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners’—and I am the worst of them all.” 1 Timothy 1:15*

4. Confess any sin on your part.

*“But if we confess our sins to Him, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness.” 1 John 1:9*

5. Fix anything with others that belongs to you.

*“Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results.” James 5:16*

6. When past failures or regrets come, count them as temptations.

*“The temptations in your life are no different from what others experience. And God is faithful. He will not allow the temptation to be more than you can stand. When you are tempted, He will show you a way out so that you can endure.” 1 Corinthians 10:13*

7. Keep your eyes on Jesus.

*“We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the Champion who initiates and perfects our faith.” Hebrews 12:2a*

8. Focus toward the future and resolve to not let your future be controlled by your past!

*“No, dear brothers and sisters, I have not achieved it, but I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead,” Philippians 3:13*

#### E. Jesus looks at us...

*“At that moment the Lord turned and looked at Peter.” Luke 22:61*

1. When you fall...Jesus looks at us!

2. When you don't live up to your promises...Jesus looks at us!
3. When you are determined to be strong and you are weak...Jesus looks at us!"
4. When you think you are more than...greater than... stronger than...you are...Jesus looks at us! There is no shame in His look!
5. He looks at us through the eyes of forgiveness... grace...mercy...and belief in us! He looks at us through His eyes and sees the blood of Jesus that covers our sin!

*"So now there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus.<sup>2</sup> And because you belong to Him, the power<sup>(a)</sup> of the life-giving Spirit has freed you<sup>(b)</sup> from the power of sin that leads to death." Romans 8:1-2 NLT*

*"With the arrival of Jesus, the Messiah, that fateful dilemma is resolved. Those who enter into Christ's being-here-for-us no longer have to live under a continuous, low-lying black cloud. A new power is in operation. The Spirit of life in Christ, like a strong wind, has magnificently cleared the air, freeing you from a fated lifetime of brutal tyranny at the hands of sin and death."*

*Romans 8:1-2 The Message*

***Text: IChooseJesus***

***To: 88202***