

Scripture this week:

Mark 14:66-72

⁶⁶ And as Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant girls of the high priest came, ⁶⁷ and seeing Peter warming himself, she looked at him and said, "You also were with the Nazarene, Jesus." ⁶⁸ But he denied it, saying, "I neither know nor understand what you mean." And he went out into the gateway and the rooster crowed. ⁶⁹ And the servant girl saw him and began again to say to the bystanders, "This man is one of them." ⁷⁰ But again he denied it. And after a little while the bystanders again said to Peter, "Certainly you are one of them, for you are a Galilean." ⁷¹ But he began to invoke a curse on himself and to swear, "I do not know this man of whom you speak." ⁷² And immediately the rooster crowed a second time. And Peter remembered how Jesus had said to him, "Before the rooster crows twice, you will deny me three times." And he broke down and wept.

Alone to the Cross

Mark 14:66-72

Keith Gove - December 1, 2019

Mark culminates the disciples' abandonment of Jesus with Peter's denial in order to highlight the magnitude of Jesus' powerful love.

Jesus sees what Peter could not see.

Jesus knows what Peter could not believe.

Jesus does what Peter could not imagine.

Life Group Questions:

Mark 14:66-72

Notes:

1. At Jesus' arrest, all the disciples fled (v. 50). Why does Mark come back to Peter to show his further abandonment of Jesus?
2. How would you describe the differences between Peter's first denial in v. 68 and the last denial in v. 71?
3. Why do you think Jesus chose to show the disciples, in the days leading to His death, that He knew exactly how these events would unfold – the betrayal, the scattering, and Peter's denial?
4. How do we typically respond when we fail to trust Jesus as fully as we desire? Do we try to hide it? Do we ignore it? Do we recognize it when it happens? Do we mourn it? Do we celebrate forgiveness?
5. What are the practical and ordinary ways that we might be tempted to: deny that God is in control? Deny that God is holy? Deny that God is good and loves us personally?
6. Like Peter, we will all stumble as we walk with Christ. How could we walk together in ways that help us all walk forward with grace and faith?