



Alone to the Cross





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



Mark 14:66-72

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Two Main Characters in This Text



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



The Backstory



Jesus Sees What Peter
(and the rest of the disciples)
Could Not See

Mark 14:26-31



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Setting The Scene



Mark 14:53-54

⁵³ And they led Jesus to the high priest. And all the chief priests and the elders and the scribes came together. ⁵⁴ And Peter had followed him at a distance, right into the **courtyard of the high priest.** And he was **sitting with the guards and warming himself at the fire.**



The Confrontation



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.”



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Peter has a decision to make



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Denial #1



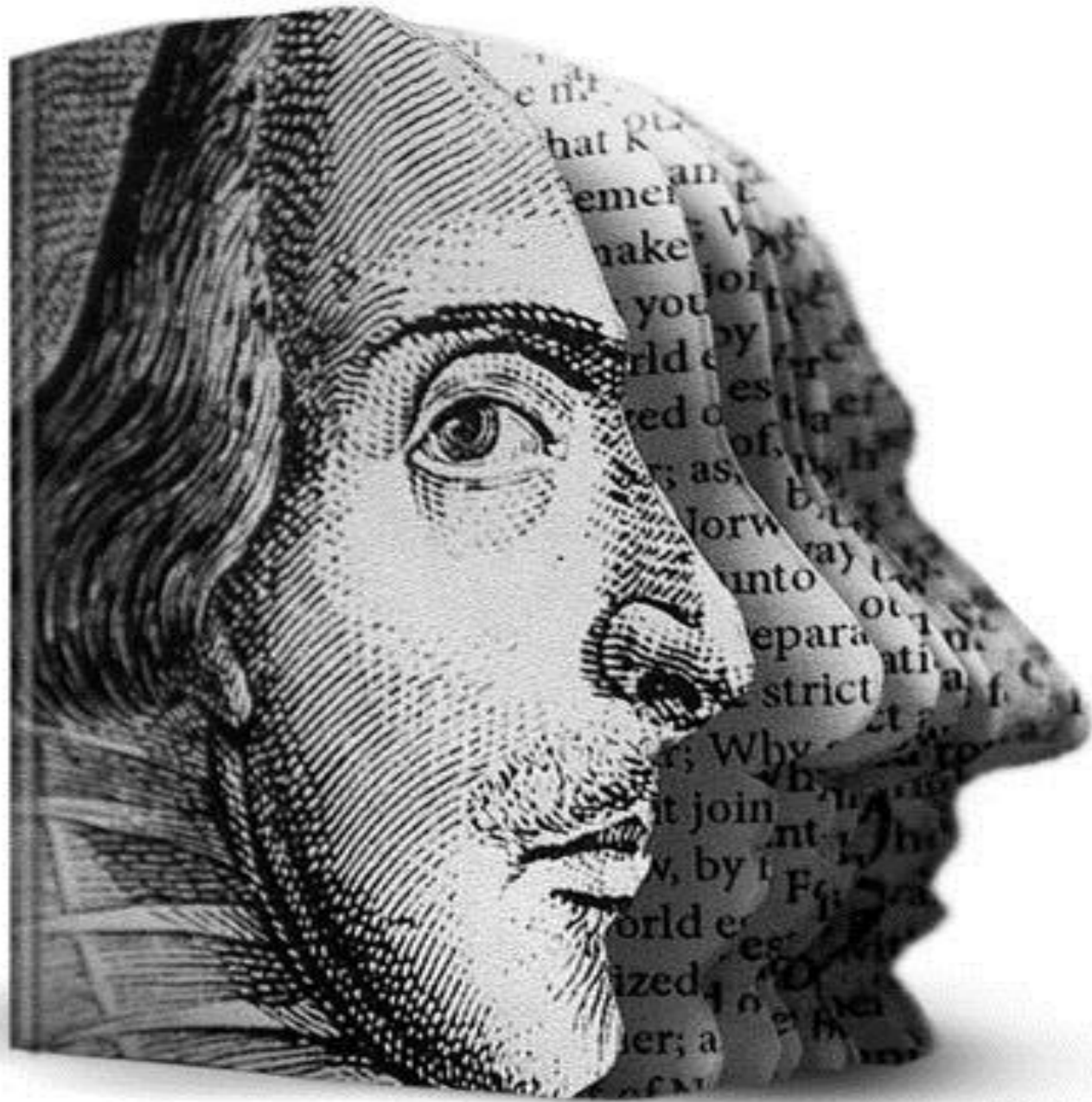
Denial #1

- **To the servant girl**



Denial #1

- **To the servant girl**
- **He protests too much, I think...**





Denial #1

- **To the servant girl**
- **He protests too much, I think...**
- **I don't even know what you're talking about**



Denial #1

- **To the servant girl**
- **He protests too much, I think...**
- **I don't even know what you're talking about**
- **Go away!**



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Denial #2



Denial #2

- **To the servant girl and some bystanders**



Denial #2

- **To the servant girl and some bystanders**
- **You are mistaking me for someone else**



Denial #2

- **To the servant girl and some bystanders**
- **You are mistaking me for someone else**
- **I'm not one of 'them'**



Denial #2

- **To the servant girl and some bystanders**
- **You are mistaking me for someone else**
- **I'm not one of 'them'**
- **You are wrong!**



Mark 14:66-72

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Denial #3



Denial #3

- **To the bystanders (and the girl)**



Denial #3

- **To the bystanders (and the girl)**
- **May God strike me dead...**



Denial #3

- **To the bystanders (and the girl)**
- **May God strike me dead...**
- **I swear to you...**



Denial #3

- **To the bystanders (and the girl)**
- **May God strike me dead...**
- **I swear to you...**
- **I do not know 'that man'**



Jesus Knows What Peter **Could Not Believe**



Jesus knew:



Jesus knew:

- **The prophecy of God through Zechariah**



Jesus knew:

- **The prophecy of God through Zechariah**
- **All his students would leave him**



Jesus knew:

- **The prophecy of God through Zechariah**
- **All his students would leave him**
- **Suffering He was about to endure**



Jesus knew:

- **The prophecy of God through Zechariah**
- **All his students would leave him**
- **Suffering He was about to endure**
- **Even Peter - the unofficial leader, the Rock, the most vocal follower, would deny Him**



Jesus knew:

- **The prophecy of God through Zechariah**
- **All his students would leave him**
- **Suffering He was about to endure**
- **Even Peter - the unofficial leader, the Rock, the most vocal follower, would deny Him**
- **The disciples could not help Him**



But Peter could not see the future...



But Peter could not see the future...

He did not know all the facts...



But Peter could not see the future...

He did not know all the facts...

He could not imagine this kind of king...



Then they began to spit in Jesus' face and beat him with their fists. And some slapped him, jeering: Prophecy to us, you Messiah! Who hit you that time? Matthew 26:67-68



Flashback to Chapter 8



Mark 8:31-33

³¹ And he (Jesus) began to teach them that **the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes and be killed**, and after three days rise again. ³² And he said this plainly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³ But turning and seeing his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man.”



Peter's Final Denial



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Peter is finally, painfully aware
of his weakness



Jesus Does What Peter
Could Not Imagine



Jesus Walks Alone From Here

Mark 14:26-31



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In this story, Mark shows us:



In this story, Mark shows us:

- **Jesus saw it all clearly**



In this story, Mark shows us:

- **Jesus saw it all clearly**
- **Jesus knew what would happen**



In this story, Mark shows us:

- **Jesus saw it all clearly**
- **Jesus knew what would happen**
- **Jesus walked willingly to the end alone**



In this story, Mark shows us:

- **Jesus saw it all clearly**
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- **Peter could not see God's wisdom**



In this story, Mark shows us:

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- **Peter could not see God's wisdom**
- **Peter could not imagine his own failure**



In this story, Mark shows us:

- **Jesus saw it all clearly**
- **Jesus knew what would happen**
- **Jesus walked willingly to the end alone**
- **Peter could not see God's wisdom**
- **Peter could not imagine his own failure**
- **Peter did learn humility**



Two Main Applications



Application:

- **We can trust Jesus even when things aren't going the way we would script them**



Application:

- **We can trust Jesus even when things aren't going the way we would script them**
- **We will fail**



Application:

- **We can trust Jesus even when things aren't going the way we would script them**
- **We will fail**
 - **To trust that everything God commands is for our good**



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 - **To trust that holiness provides more lasting joy than sin**



Application:

- **We can trust Jesus even when things aren't going the way we would script them**
- **We will fail**
 - **To trust that everything God commands is for our good**
 - **To trust that holiness provides more lasting joy than sin**
 - **To trust that everything that happens can be redeemed by God's love**



Takeaways:

- **When we fail – see it, own it, confess it, and cling to Jesus.**



Takeaways:

- **When we fail – see it, own it, confess it, and cling to Jesus.**

- **Peter couldn't see the full story – but we can – so let's immerse ourselves in it!**