

TEXT—Mk. 14:66-72

MAIN IDEA—Through Peter's denials we see the deceptive fruits of sin in contrast with the power of God's grace to restore His sheep.

Jn. 10:27-28

FOOLISH SELF -RELIANCE (Mk. 14:66-68)— Peter trails close by to see what would happen to Jesus (**V54**). To his surprise a servant girl recognizes him as he warms himself at the fire and Peter nervously denies that he knows Jesus.

Peter's fall wasn't sudden but was the fruit of the sinful habit of self-reliance [**Prov. 3:5-6**]. Peter often lacked understanding in big moments because of relying on himself and not on Christ.

Mt. 16:15-18; Mt. 16:21-23

Mk. 14:38

Jer. 9:23-24; Gal. 2:20

>Consistently failing to read our Bibles, commune with God in prayer, or obey God's word is foolishly relying on ourselves and denies Christ.

COWARDLY RELUCTANCE (14:69-71)—
Peter was in a downward spiral of denial. The first denial caught him by surprise when he was questioned. Only an hour or two later, the following two denials turned into all out cowardice. Peter completely feared the

possible consequences of being discovered as one of Christ's disciples. [**Prov. 29:25ESV**].

Lk. 22:55-59

HUMBLE REPENTANCE (MK. 14:72)—

Before a new day dawned, Peter had denied Christ three times. The crowing of the rooster reminded Peter of the Lord's words which predicted his denial. Consequently, Peter wept bitterly as he realized how far he'd fallen.

2 Cor. 7:10

Warren Wiersbe (1929-2019)—Before we judge Peter too severely, we need to examine our own lives. How many times have we denied the Lord and lost

opportunities to share the gospel with others? Do we, like Peter, talk when we should listen, argue when we should obey, sleep when we should pray, and fight when we should submit? Peter at least was sorry for his sins and wept over them, and the Lord did forgive him.

Jn. 21:3-19

*This study points to the Biblical teaching of the Perseverance of the Saints (the Preservation of the Saints). All who have truly come to Christ in salvation will persevere to the end, because God preserves them until the very end.

Jn. 6:37-40

1 Cor. 1:26-30

MEMORY VERSE—Matt. 12:20