



JUST JESUS: A Journey Through Mark

PART 64 - 14:66 - 72

When Someone Recognizes You as One of Them

READ: Mark 14:66–68 and Romans 1:16–17

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- 1) Pastor Greg pointed out that the servant girl does not threaten Peter or accuse him of a crime. She simply identifies him as someone who had been with Jesus. Why do you think that seemingly simple statement created so much fear in Peter?
- 2) Peter had followed Jesus into the courtyard, but Greg reminds us that Mark said he was following “at a distance.” What are some ways Christians today can remain close enough to Jesus to consider themselves followers while still maintaining a “safe distance” when identifying with Him becomes uncomfortable?
- 3) Pastor Greg said, “That physical distance is now quickly becoming spiritual distance as well.” Have you ever experienced a season when distance from Jesus developed gradually rather than through one deliberate decision to walk away? What warning signs can help us recognize that happening?
- 4) Paul says, “I am not ashamed of the gospel.” What situations make Christians most tempted to become quiet, evasive, or embarrassed about belonging to Jesus?

Three Opportunities to Stand

READ: Mark 14:69–71 and 1 Corinthians 10:12–13

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- 1) Trace the progression of Peter’s three denials. How does each denial become more deliberate and serious than the one before it, and what does that teach us about the danger of continuing down a path we already know is wrong?
- 2) Paul warns, “Let him who thinks he stands take heed that he does not fall.” How does Peter illustrate that warning? What is the difference between having confidence in Christ and having confidence in our own ability to remain faithful?
- 3) Peter had three opportunities to change course. After the first denial, what could he have done differently? When we recognize that we have already made one wrong choice, what makes it difficult to stop, confess it, and choose differently the next time?
- 4) Pastor Greg said, “Once might be explained as a moment of panic. The second time reveals a deliberate choice.” Where is the line in our own lives between an impulsive failure and knowingly choosing to continue in something we know is wrong? What should we do when we realize we have crossed that line?

When the Rooster Crows

READ: Mark 14:72 and 2 Corinthians 7:9–10

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- 1) What changed inside Peter when the rooster crowed the second time? Why do you think remembering Jesus’ words affected him so deeply?
- 2) Paul distinguishes between a sorrow that leads to repentance and a sorrow that merely produces regret and death. What is the difference between being sorry because our sin caused unpleasant consequences and being genuinely brokenhearted because we have sinned against God?
- 3) Peter’s failure was terrible, but his heart was still tender enough to be broken over it. What can cause a Christian gradually to become less sensitive to the conviction of the Holy Spirit? How can we cultivate a heart that remains responsive to Him?
- 4) Pastor Greg said, “The dangerous place isn’t when our failure brings us to tears. The dangerous place is when we can knowingly disobey Jesus, and it doesn’t bother us anymore.” Do you agree? How should we respond when the Holy Spirit brings conviction rather than trying to excuse, minimize, or hide what we have done?

No More Safe Distance

READ: Luke 9:23–26

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- 1) Jesus says following Him involves denying ourselves and taking up our cross. What might openly identifying with Jesus actually cost someone in our culture today? Approval? Relationships? Opportunities? Comfort? Something else?
- 2) Peter knew exactly who Jesus was. His problem came when identifying with Jesus suddenly appeared costly. In what situations are you personally most tempted to keep your relationship with Jesus anonymous?
- 3) The sermon contrasts Jesus inside and above, openly confessing the truth even though it will cost Him His life, with Peter outside and below, denying the truth and denying Jesus because he fears it might cost him his life. What does Jesus' faithfulness in that moment teach us about both His character and the grace available to us when our own faithfulness fails?
- 4) Pastor Greg said, "Following Jesus was never intended to be anonymous." If someone watched your life for a week without being told you were a Christian, what evidence would lead them to say, "Wait a minute. Aren't you one of those Jesus people? Aren't you one of them?" What would it look like for you to boldly answer with joy, "WHY YES! I AM! I AM ONE OF THEM! I BELONG TO JESUS!"