

Hello! This is Dorothy-

Have you ever denied the Lord Jesus? Well, perhaps not in word, but what about your silence? Peter experienced such a denial. We read in **John 13**, the Lord Jesus commissioned Peter and John to make proper preparation for the Passover. When the supper was ended, Jesus **began to wash the disciples' feet**. . . However, when He came to Peter, Peter acted very presumptuously - presumptuous humility, as it were. He acted as if, "Oh, no, I don't need this."

8 Peter saith unto him, Thou shalt never wash my feet. Jesus answered him, If I wash thee not, thou hast no part with me.

So Peter consented and actually requested that the washing include both his hands and his head ! Then we read that at that last supper, Jesus announced that one of his twelve disciples would betray Him. Peter beckoned to John, who was leaning on the chest of Jesus to ask Him which person Jesus was talking about. All the time, we are learning about Peter.

Matthew 26 —

33 Peter declared unto Him, Though they all are offended and stumble and fall away because of You [and distrust and desert You], I will never do so.

34 Jesus said to him, Solemnly I declare to you, this very

night, before a single rooster crows, you will deny and disown Me three times.

35 Peter said to Him, Even if I must die with You, I will not deny or disown You!

That very night, Jesus, our Lord and Saviour, was betrayed, apprehended, and taken to the palace of Caiaphas.

58 But Peter followed Him at a distance. . . - notice this - . . . at a distance.

John, speaking to the porters on his behalf, arranged for Peter to sit with the servants to watch to the end. But while in the court, a damsel came unto Peter saying, —

69 . . . You also wast with Jesus of Galilee.

70 But he denied before them all, saying, I know not what thou sayest.

Then in **verse 71**, we read that Peter's second denial occurred in the porch to which he had withdrawn. Another maid declared to those all standing around, **This fellow also was with Jesus of Nazareth!** Peter, with an oath denied even an acquaintance with Jesus! (**verse 72**).

In **Matthew 26: 73**, we read of his third denial, which was uttered after a while. Peter probably made some remark in his Galilean dialect and was charged with being one of the disciples of Jesus, as they said, . . . **thy speech betrayeth thee.**

74 Then began he to curse and to swear, saying, I know not

the man. Suddenly, Peter was interrupted by the crowing of the cock.

And his eyes met the eyes of the Lord Jesus, Who at that moment was being tortured by cruel hands, before they took Him out for crucifixion. Peter, brought to a sense of terrible guilt, as we read in **Luke 22:62 - And Peter went out , and wept bitterly.**

Oh, have you ever been in that place of denial? Have you ever realized that somebody has died and it was too late for you to warn them that they didn't have to go to be separated forever from the living God? Oh, you didn't speak up when you should have! Have you wept bitterly?

This is good news. Jesus was already laid in the tomb, the grave. On the morning of the resurrection, the women, finding the stone removed from the door of the sepulcher, hastened to tell the disciples. They told Peter and John, who immediately ran to the spot. John being the younger, of course outran Peter. But he didn't enter the sepulcher. Peter, when he arrived, went in. He saw the linen clothes and the napkin laid carefully away, showing that there had been no violence, no theft, no pillage. John now entered and believed that the Lord had risen. Interesting. But Peter departed, wondering in himself at that which had come to pass. You see, when we deny the Lord, already we begin to doubt. We

lack the vision of understanding what the Spirit of Lord is saying to us, because we are not walking by faith. We get all mixed up.

It was shortly after this that Jesus rose. Jesus forced Peter to face his own failure. I wonder if He is doing that with your life. Jesus never mentioned it again, because Peter's sin was forgiven and buried beneath the Blood which had been shed on his behalf. **Luke 24** tells us that the risen Lord Jesus Christ first appeared to Peter. Peter was forgiven through the resurrection power of Jesus. Peter rebounded in Christ. And you can, too!

In Jesus' Name. Amen.