

# “And Warmed Himself At The Fire”

**Introduction.** Peter was certainly a unique individual. Perhaps his life is of so much interest because he was like so many of us. He was certainly a man who was hasty in speech and hasty in action.

But there was an incident which occurred in the life of Peter which we will examine today. This was the incident of his denial of the Lord of which all four gospels record (Matthew 26:69-75; Mark 14:66-72; Luke 22:54-62; John 18:15-18, 25-27). We are going to concentrate on the account in Mark for the purpose of this lesson.

Jesus predicted that His disciples would turn away from Him the night of His betrayal (Mark 14:27-28). In a moment of passion, excitement and anger, Peter committed a deed he would regret for a lifetime. You may be just like Peter today. There may be some sin of which you are guilty and are in need of repentance and forgiveness. If you are in that situation, you need to listen carefully and act accordingly when this lesson is over.

## I. ***He Thought He Would Not Stumble***

- A. Peter made a bold claim in Mark 14:29, but he could not deliver on his words. What is our perception of our spiritual condition?
  - 1. In order to make ourselves stronger, a thorough examination is needed (2 Corinthians 13:5)!
  - 2. We often see ourselves much stronger than we really are. That is why we need to deeply scrutinize ourselves.
- B. We need to take heed (1 Corinthians 10:12). Would we be wrongly confident in a similar situation?
  - 1. Temptation is truly a snare of death (Proverbs 13:14; 14:27). It must be resisted (1 Peter 5:8-9; 1 John 4:4).
  - 2. Part of the “good news” is that Christ is able to help us turn from temptation (Hebrews 2:18; 4:15; Revelation 3:10).

## II. ***He Did Not Believe Jesus***

- A. In Mark 14:30-31, Peter acted with disbelief at the words of Jesus. Do we believe everything God has revealed in His word?
  - 1. David wanted to build the temple but God refused. David accepted the word of God (2 Samuel 7:18-29).
  - 2. Faith comes by hearing (Romans 10:17). However, many constantly hear about the dangers and the certainty of hell, but they never obey.
- B. Do we take God’s word seriously and understand that it will be the standard by which we will be judged (Psalm 19:7-11; John 7:17; 12:48)?
  - 1. When people fail to take God’s word seriously, religious error will

- infiltrate the church (1 Kings 12:25-33).
2. If this error goes unchecked, then it will bring about condemnation for all those involved (Revelation 2:20-23).

### III. ***He Followed Jesus At A Distance***

- A. In Mark 14:54, when association became risky, he followed Jesus "from afar." Being a Christian is not always popular (1 Peter 4:4; 2 Timothy 3:12).
  1. The apostles were persecuted, and yet they saw it as a great honor to suffer for the cause of Christ (Acts 5:41).
  2. If it means losing a job or other unpleasant consequences, will you have the strength to stand for Jesus (1 Corinthians 16:13)?
- B. What will we do when we receive criticism for following Jesus? Will we speak out boldly (Acts 4:31; 9:29; 19:8)?
  1. Standing up to friends and being the one on the outside is one of the toughest challenges we will face.
  2. God promises to be with us, even if all men hate us on account of Christ (Matthew 10:22). If we draw near to God, we will have strength (James 4:8-10).

### IV. ***He Warmed Himself At The Fire***

- A. He tried blend in by warming himself at the fire (Mark 14:54). It provided the perfect opportunity for the devil (2 Corinthians 6:17-18; Ephesians 5:11).
  1. The desire to blend in is a direct precursor to compromise. Will we do this with different issues such as divorce and remarriage, baptism and instrumental music?
  2. Churches of Christ in this country have resorted to "blending in" with the religious world because they do not have the stomach to be different!
- B. People should be able to see our sanctification and the fact that Christ lives in us (1 Thessalonians 4:3-4; Romans 12:1; Galatians 2:20; Titus 3:3-5).
  1. If they cannot see moral excellence in us, then we are failing to develop as we have been commanded (2 Peter 1:5).
  2. If we fail to let our light shine, then we are failing to follow our Lord's commands (Matthew 5:13-16).

**Conclusion.** We cannot warm ourselves at the world's fire and watch Jesus from afar. We need to dress in the full armor of God (Ephesians 6:13-18). If not, we will stumble and fall short. Peter turned back and Jesus enlisted him in His service again (John 21:15-19).

The story of Peter's second conversion is the story of a erring child

who was restored to God (Acts 8:22-24). His subsequent life and letters are a testimony to the fact that he returned to the Lord and lived righteously after committing such a terrible deed (Luke 22:30-31).

There may be someone here today who needs to return to the Lord. Your life has been such that you have not stayed away from sin as you ought to have. Your armor has not stood firm against the schemes of the devil. The words of James 5:16 are not empty words, so do not treat them as such. Esau sought repentance with many tears, but he could not change his situation (Hebrews 12:15-17). If you are in sin, do not wait until your heart is hardened and never respond to the gospel call.

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