

Jesus was arrested by Judas Iscariot and the servants of the high priest while praying at the Garden of Gethsemane. Although all the disciples deserted Jesus and fled, Peter still followed from a distance to the house of the high priest where Jesus was being tried (verse 54). While there, Peter denied Jesus three times. This image of Peter is our image, and it is your image as well. Disciples are not perfect. Therefore, even in the place of failure, sin, and denying Jesus, there can be shame, yet there is room for standing as a disciple of the Lord. Through today's passage, let's examine why Peter denied Jesus, how he was restored in that place, and reflect on ourselves, praying for the precious grace of becoming the Lord's disciples again, in the name of the Lord.

1. Peter, Following Jesus from Afar

Peter followed Jesus to the house of the high priest. However, there is an issue. He followed Jesus but did so "from afar." In verse 54, it states that Peter followed Jesus from a distance. Peter, who had firmly sworn never to betray Jesus, followed Him as He was being arrested, yet he maintained a certain distance. This distance was close enough to observe what was happening to Jesus yet far enough to ensure he wouldn't be arrested himself. Maintaining this distance provided Peter with both convenience and safety.

2. Peter, Overconfident in Himself

Furthermore, why did Peter fail and deny Jesus three times? It was because he didn't heed Jesus' words and warnings due to excessive self-assurance. He believed in himself, not in Jesus. Rather than trusting Jesus' words, he trusted in his own loyalty. Jesus had told Peter, "You will deny me." And He also said, "Pray that you may not enter into temptation." However, when Jesus asked them to pray, Peter was sleeping.

Instead of humbly examining himself before the words of Jesus and going to a place of prayer, he overestimated himself, saying, "Even if everyone else deserts you, I will never desert you. I will even die with you." He overestimated himself, not being vigilant.

3. Peter, Meeting Jesus' Gaze and Weeping

It's a truly regrettable story, and it's our story as well. But for you, Peter did not finish his journey as a failure, as someone who denied Jesus three times. He recovered beautifully and remained faithful to the end. He became one of the most important people in the early church.

Why? It's because he could weep over his own sin. What does Peter's weeping signify? With what kind of heart did he weep? It is said that he wept because he remembered the words of Jesus. He would have wept, confessing, "I should have listened more carefully to your words. I should have prayed more and stayed awake. I should not have denied you." This dramatic reversal, this repentance, happened for him because of one unique detail found only in the Gospel of Luke: "And the Lord turned and looked at Peter. And Peter remembered the saying of the Lord, how he had said to him, 'Before the rooster crows today, you will deny me three times.' And he went out and wept bitterly." (Luke 22:61-62).

Jesus turned and their eyes met. Looking at the cross, with Jesus praying for forgiveness for those who did not know what they were doing, with Jesus bearing the sin of humanity and heading towards the redemptive death, Jesus, who already knew Peter would deny Him three times, must have looked at Peter with eyes of forgiveness, love, and mercy.

Peter did something very good. He looked at the Lord. There was something very fortunate. He met the gaze of Jesus. And this gaze made him remember the words of Jesus, led him to a restoration where he could confess his weakness and sins and weep.

Together, let us seek the grace of restoration. May the Holy Spirit touch our hearts, assure us of the love of Jesus' cross, and grant us the grace to weep. Lord, restore my soul.

Bible**Memorization****A VERSE FOR THIS WEEK**

"Then Jesus told his disciples, 'If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.'" (Matthew 16:24)

**Bible
Reading**

8/21(Mon)	8/22(Tue)	8/23(Wed)	8/24(Thur)	8/25(Fri)	8/26(Sat)	8/27(Sun)
Jeremiah18-20	Jeremiah21-23	Jeremiah24-26	Jeremiah27-29	Jeremiah30-31	Jeremiah32-33	Jeremiah34-36

QT**Quiet Time Passage**

8/21(Mon)	8/22(Tue)	8/23(Wed)	8/24(Thur)	8/25(Fri)	8/26(Sat)	8/27(Sun)
Acts24:24-25:12	Acts 25:13-27	Acts 26:1-12	Acts 26:13-23	Acts 26:24-32	Acts 27:1-12	Acts 27:13-26

**Sharing
Questions**

1. Please share what you have newly realized or received as grace through today's Scripture.
2. Please share with me what aspects of myself I can find within Peter's portrayal in today's passage.
3. Please pray together for the grace to be able to repent and weep for restoration.