

## REASONS FOR PETERS FAILURE

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One of the greatest success stories in the New Testament<sup>5</sup> has to do with the Apostle Peter. He stood before an audience of perhaps 100,000 and preached and about 3,000 souls obeyed the gospel in that day.

But Peter had not always succeeded, even in his own faithfulness. In fact just a few weeks earlier he had actually denied knowing the Christ which he had preached on this day, cursing and swearing as he did so.

Our lesson has to do with Peters' failure—his denying the Lord. The Bible reads, *“And as Peter was beneath in the palace, there cometh one of the maids of the high priest: And when she saw Peter warming himself, she looked upon him and said, and thou also wast with Jesus of Nazareth. But he denied, saying, I know not, neither understand I what thou sayest. And he went out into the porch; and the cock crew. And a maid saw him a main and began to say to them that stood by, this is one of them. And he denied it again. And a little while after, they that stood by said again to Peter, surely thou art one of them: For thou art a Galilean and thy speech agreeth there to. But he began to curse and to swear, saying, I know not this man of whom ye speak. And the second time the cock crew. And Peter called to mind the word that Jesus said unto him, Before the cock crow twice, thou shalt deny me thrice. And when he thought thereon, he wept”* (Mark 14:66-72).

I want to mention four reasons for Peter's failure. Reason number one, Peter failed because he boasted too much. After instating the Lord's Supper, Jesus told his disciples in (John 13:36), *“Whither I go, thou canst not follow me.”*

Now notice Peter's response in v. 37, *“Peter said unto Him, Lord, why cannot I follow thee now? (Now notice), I will lay down my life for thy sake.”* In Mark 14:30, our Lord's response was, *“Verily I say unto thee, that this day, even in this night before the cock crows twice, thou shalt deny me thrice.”*

According to Luke 22:33, Peter said, *“Lord, I am ready to go with thee, both into prison and to death.”* Matthew 26:33 records the words of Peter, *“Through all men shall be offended because of thee, yet will I never be offended.”*

Simon Peter was a quick spoken and impetuous person, and he over estimated his own strength and loyalty to the Lord. And, my friends this is a common fault of all humanity. We have another example of this in Luke Chapter 18 in the parable of the Pharisee and the Publican.