

II. The Declarations  
of Loyalty

Declaration #1  
In the Upper Room

**Sift** - separating what is desirable from what is undesirable. Satan wants to prove that Peter will fall under the weight of severe testing.

Was Jesus' prayer answered? Did Peter's faith fail permanently or temporarily?

Declaration #2  
In the Upper Room

**Rooster-Crow** - Cock-crow was reckoned as the watch between twelve midnight and three o'clock in the morning, when the light of dawn began to glimmer on the eastern horizon.

Declaration #3  
On or near the Mount of Olives

Declaration #4  
On or near the Mount of Olives

Luke 22:31–33 (ESV)

<sup>31</sup>“**Simon, Simon**, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he *might sift you like wheat*,  
<sup>32</sup>but **I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers.**”

<sup>33</sup>**Peter** said to him, “**Lord, I am ready to go with you both to prison and to death.**”

John 13:33–38 (ESV)

<sup>33</sup>Little children, yet a little while I am with you. You will seek me, and just as I said to the Jews, so now I also say to you, ‘**Where I am going you cannot come.**’

<sup>36</sup>**Simon Peter** said to him, “**Lord, where are you going?**” Jesus answered him, “**Where I am going you cannot follow me now, but you will follow afterward.**”

<sup>37</sup>**Peter** said to him, “**Lord, why can I not follow you now? I will lay down my life for you.**”

<sup>38</sup>Jesus answered, “**Will you lay down your life for me? Truly, truly, I say to you, the rooster will not crow till you have denied me three times.**”

Mt 26:69–75; Mk 14:66–72;  
Lk 22:55–62; Jn 18:16–18, 25–27

Matthew 26:31–35 (ESV)

<sup>31</sup>Then Jesus said to them, “**You will all fall away because of me this night. For it is written, ‘I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.’**” <- Zech 13:7

<sup>32</sup>But after I am raised up, I will go before you to Galilee.”

<sup>33</sup>**Peter** answered him, “**Though they all fall away because of you, I will never fall away.**”

<sup>34</sup>Jesus said to him, “**Truly, I tell you, this very night, before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times.**” <- Mt 26:69–75; Mk 14:66–72;  
Lk 22:55–62; Jn 18:16–18, 25–27

<sup>35</sup>**Peter** said to him, “**Even if I must die with you, I will not deny you!**” And all the disciples said the same.

**The Collapse**

-Study of the final night before the crucifixion of Jesus

-This was a very bad night for Peter as it marked a spiritual collapse.

-The pinnacle of this collapse is his threefold denial of Jesus.

-These declarations stand in contrast with his ultimate denials.

**The Declarations**

**A. Disrespect**

He gave no weight to the words of Christ...All His words were rejected by Peter

**-Praying**

Jesus was concerned enough about Peter that he prayed for his faith (Lk 22:32)

**-Pathway**

Jesus explained that his disciples could NOT go where he was going (Jn 13:33, 36)

**-Prediction**

Three predictions about Peter & the Disciples (Mt 26:31,34; Jn 13:38)

**B. Arrogance**

**-He thought he knew more than Jesus**

In all of the declarations, Peter is arguing with / rejecting the words of Christ.

**-He thought he was too strong to fail**

In all of the declarations, Peter declared that he would be loyal to the end.

\*1Co 10:12

**-He thought he was superior to others**

“Though they all fall away”

Contrast this to the words of Paul in...

\*Phil 2:3-4

\*1Tim 1:15

**C. Influence**

“All the disciples said the same.”

### I Will Strike

#### **Zechariah 13:7 (ESV)**

<sup>7</sup> “Awake, O sword, against my shepherd,  
against the man who stands next to me,”  
declares the LORD of hosts.

“Strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered;  
I will turn my hand against the little ones.

### He thought he was too strong to fail

#### **1 Corinthians 10:12 (ESV)**

<sup>12</sup> Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall.

### He thought he was superior to others

#### **Philippians 2:3–4 (ESV)**

<sup>3</sup> Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility ***count others more significant than yourselves.*** <sup>4</sup> Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.

#### **1 Timothy 1:15 (ESV)**

<sup>15</sup> The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, ***of whom I am the foremost.***

### Peter Denies Jesus

#### **Matthew 26:69–75 (ESV)**

<sup>69</sup> Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. And a servant girl came up to him and said, “You also were with Jesus the Galilean.” <sup>70</sup> But he denied it before them all, saying, “I do not know what you mean.” <sup>71</sup> And when he went out to the entrance, another servant girl saw him, and she said to the bystanders, “This man was with Jesus of Nazareth.” <sup>72</sup> And again he denied it with an oath: “I do not know the man.” <sup>73</sup> After a little while the bystanders came up and said to Peter, “Certainly you too are one of them, for your accent betrays you.” <sup>74</sup> Then he began to invoke a curse on himself and to swear, “I do not know the man.” And immediately the rooster crowed. <sup>75</sup> And Peter remembered the saying of Jesus, **“Before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times.”** And he went out and wept bitterly.

**Mark 14:66–72 (ESV)**

<sup>66</sup> And as Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant girls of the high priest came, <sup>67</sup> and seeing Peter warming himself, she looked at him and said, “You also were with the Nazarene, Jesus.” <sup>68</sup> But he denied it, saying, “I neither know nor understand what you mean.” And he went out into the gateway and the rooster crowed. <sup>69</sup> And the servant girl saw him and began again to say to the bystanders, “This man is one of them.” <sup>70</sup> But again he denied it. And after a little while the bystanders again said to Peter, “Certainly you are one of them, for you are a Galilean.” <sup>71</sup> But he began to invoke a curse on himself and to swear, “I do not know this man of whom you speak.” <sup>72</sup> And immediately the rooster crowed a second time. And Peter remembered how Jesus had said to him, “**Before the rooster crows twice, you will deny me three times.**” And he broke down and wept.

**Luke 22:55–62 (ESV)**

<sup>55</sup> And when they had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and sat down together, Peter sat down among them. <sup>56</sup> Then a servant girl, seeing him as he sat in the light and looking closely at him, said, “This man also was with him.” <sup>57</sup> But he denied it, saying, “Woman, I do not know him.” <sup>58</sup> And a little later someone else saw him and said, “You also are one of them.” But Peter said, “Man, I am not.” <sup>59</sup> And after an interval of about an hour still another insisted, saying, “Certainly this man also was with him, for he too is a Galilean.” <sup>60</sup> But Peter said, “Man, I do not know what you are talking about.” And immediately, while he was still speaking, the rooster crowed. <sup>61</sup> 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.**” <sup>62</sup> And he went out and wept bitterly.

**John 18:16–18 (ESV)**

<sup>16</sup> but Peter stood outside at the door. So the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out and spoke to the servant girl who kept watch at the door, and brought Peter in. <sup>17</sup> The servant girl at the door said to Peter, “You also are not one of this man’s disciples, are you?” He said, “I am not.” <sup>18</sup> Now the servants and officers had made a charcoal fire, because it was cold, and they were standing and warming themselves. Peter also was with them, standing and warming himself.

**John 18:25–27 (ESV)**

<sup>25</sup> Now Simon Peter was standing and warming himself. So they said to him, “You also are not one of his disciples, are you?” He denied it and said, “I am not.” <sup>26</sup> One of the servants of the high priest, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, asked, “Did I not see you in the garden with him?” <sup>27</sup> Peter again denied it, and at once a rooster crowed.