

III. The Demonstration
of Swordplay

Mt 26:51-54; Mk 14:47

A. Impulsive

Peter started swinging his sword before Christ answered a question regarding the use of the sword.

B. Inconsistent

The Gospel does not conquer men with a physical sword but by "the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God" (Eph 6:17)
-Mt 26:52

Luke 22:49–51 (ESV)

⁴⁹And when those who were around him saw what would follow, they said, "**Lord, shall we strike with the sword?**"

⁵⁰And **one of them struck the servant of the high priest and cut off his right ear.**

⁵¹But Jesus said, "No more of this!" And he touched his ear and healed him.

John 18:10–11 (ESV)

¹⁰Then **Simon Peter**, having a sword, **drew it and struck the high priest's servant and cut off his right ear.** (The servant's name was Malchus.)

¹¹So Jesus said to Peter, "**Put your sword into its sheath; shall I not drink the cup that the Father has given me?**"

Mark 14:30–31, 66-72 (ESV)

³⁰And Jesus said to him, "**Truly, I tell you, this very night, before the rooster crows twice, you will deny me three times.**"

³¹But he said emphatically, "**If I must die with you, I will not deny you.**" And they all said the same.

⁶⁶And as **Peter** was below in the courtyard, one of the servant girls of the high priest came,
⁶⁷and seeing **Peter** warming himself, she looked at him and said, "**You also were with the Nazarene, Jesus.**"

⁶⁸But **he denied it**, saying, "**I neither know nor understand what you mean.**" And he went out into the gateway and **the rooster crowed;**

⁶⁹And the servant girl saw him and began again to say to the bystanders, "**This man is one of them.**"

⁷⁰But 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.**"

⁷¹But **he began to invoke a curse on himself and to swear**, "**I do not know this man of whom you speak.**"

⁷²And 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.**

Denial #1

Rooster Crowed
First Time

Denial #2

Denial #3

Rooster Crowed
Second Time

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 that we will study in this lesson.

IV. The Denials of
Christ

Mt 26:69-75; Lk 22:54-62;
Jn 18:15-18

A. Warning

Mt 26:34; Mk 14:30-31;
Lk 22:34; Jn 13:38

Jesus' warnings are recorded most specifically in Mark's account

-this night

-rooster crows twice

-deny me three times

B. Wickedness

-Deceiving Words

4 Distinct Lies

1. Being with Jesus

2. Being a disciple

3. Knowing Jesus

4. Understanding their accusation

-Dishonoring Words

"man of whom you speak"

-Compare with Mt 16:16

-Defiling Words

"he began to invoke a curse on himself and to swear"

C. Weeping

While Peter's denials are terrible, we must recognize that he became convicted about his sin when he was confronted by the rooster crowing and Jesus looking at him (Lk 22:61).

Demonstration of Swordplay

Matthew 26:51–54 (ESV)

⁵¹ And behold, one of those who were with Jesus stretched out his hand and drew his sword and struck the servant of the high priest and cut off his ear. ⁵² Then Jesus said to him, “Put your sword back into its place. For all who take the sword will perish by the sword. ⁵³ Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels? ⁵⁴ But how then should the Scriptures be fulfilled, that it must be so?”

Mark 14:47 (ESV)

⁴⁷ But one of those who stood by drew his sword and struck the servant of the high priest and cut off his ear.

Ephesians 6:17 (ESV)

¹⁷ and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God,

The Denials of Christ

Matthew 26:69–75 (ESV)

⁶⁹ 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.” ⁷⁰ But he denied it before them all, saying, “I do not know what you mean.” ⁷¹ 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.” ⁷² And again he denied it with an oath: “I do not know the man.” ⁷³ After a little while the bystanders came up and said to Peter, “Certainly you too are one of them, for your accent betrays you.” ⁷⁴ Then he began to invoke a curse on himself and to swear, “I do not know the man.” And immediately the rooster crowed. ⁷⁵ And Peter remembered the saying of Jesus, “Before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times.” And he went out and wept bitterly.

Luke 22:54–62 (ESV)

⁵⁴ Then they seized him and led him away, bringing him into the high priest's house, and Peter was following at a distance. ⁵⁵ And when they had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and sat down together, Peter sat down among them. ⁵⁶ Then a servant girl, seeing him as he sat in the light and looking closely at him, said, "This man also was with him." ⁵⁷ But he denied it, saying, "Woman, I do not know him." ⁵⁸ And a little later someone else saw him and said, "You also are one of them." But Peter said, "Man, I am not." ⁵⁹ 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." ⁶⁰ But Peter said, "Man, I do not know what you are talking about." And immediately, while he was still speaking, the rooster crowed. ⁶¹ 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.**" ⁶² And he went out and wept bitterly.

John 18:15–18 (ESV)

¹⁵ Simon Peter followed Jesus, and so did another disciple. Since that disciple was known to the high priest, he entered with Jesus into the courtyard of the high priest, ¹⁶ 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. ¹⁷ 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." ¹⁸ 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.

Warning

Matthew 26:34 (ESV)

³⁴ Jesus said to him, "**Truly, I tell you, this very night, before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times.**"

Luke 22:34 (ESV)

³⁴ Jesus said, "**I tell you, Peter, the rooster will not crow this day, until you deny three times that you know me.**"

John 13:38 (ESV)

³⁸ 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.**"

Dishonoring Words

Matthew 16:16 (ESV)

¹⁶ Simon Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."