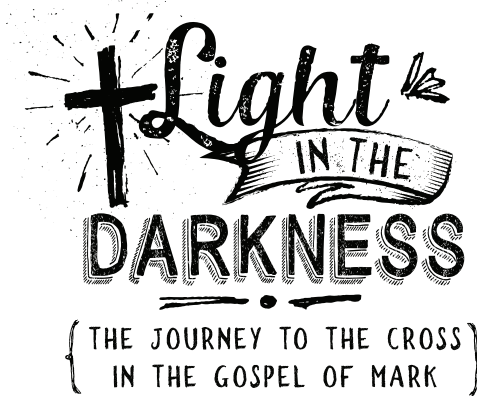


Light IN THE DARKNESS

EASTER AT TLC

GOOD FRIDAY
3/30 - 5 & 7PM

EASTER WEEKEND
3/31 - 4 & 6PM
4/1 - 8:30, 10, & 11:30AM



**PART 6:
THE DENIAL**
RENE SCHLAEPFER
MARCH 24 & 25

On the way, Jesus told them, "All of you will desert me. For the Scriptures say, 'God will strike the Shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered.' But after I am raised from the dead, I will go ahead of you to Galilee and meet you there." Mark 14:27,28 NLT

THREE COMMON REASONS FOR FAILURE

1. _____
Peter said to him, "**Even if everyone else deserts you, I never will.**" Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, Peter—this very night, before the rooster crows twice, you will deny three times that you even know me." "**No!**" Peter declared emphatically. "**Even if I have to die with you, I will never deny you!**" And all the others vowed the same.
Mark 14:29-31 NLT

2. _____
Meanwhile, Peter was in the courtyard below. One of the servant girls who worked for the high priest came by and noticed Peter warming himself at the fire. She looked at him closely and said, "You were one of those with Jesus of Nazareth." But Peter denied it. "**I don't know what you're talking about,**" he said, and he went out into the entryway. Just then, a rooster crowed. When the servant girl saw him standing there, she began telling the others, "This man is definitely one of them!" **But Peter denied it again.** Mark 14:66-70a NLT

3. _____

A little later some of the other bystanders confronted Peter and said, “You must be one of them, because you are a Galilean.” Peter swore, **“A curse on me if I’m lying—I don’t know this man you’re talking about!”** And immediately the rooster crowed the second time.
Mark 14:70b-72a NLT

THREE KEY CONCEPTS FOR RECOVERY

• _____

Suddenly, Jesus’ words flashed through Peter’s mind: “Before the rooster crows twice, you will deny three times that you even know me.” **And he broke down and wept.** Mark 14:72 NLT

• _____

(Mary Magdalene) went to the disciples, **who were together grieving and weeping**, and told them what had happened. Mark 16:10

• _____

“But go, tell his disciples **and Peter**, ‘He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.’” Mark 16:7
(See John 21)

“Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift you like wheat. But **I have prayed for you**, Simon, that your faith may not fail. So when you have repented and turned back to me, strengthen your brothers.”
Luke 22:31-32

KEY TAKEAWAY:

RESOURCES USED IN PREPARATION OF THIS MESSAGE

- Tim Keller, “Witness”, sermon at Redeemer Presbyterian Church
- Rick Warren, “God’s Mercy and My Failures”, sermon at Saddleback Church
- William Barclay, *The Gospel of Mark*

DAILY MEDITATIONS FOR LENT

MONDAY

In John 21:18-23, after Jesus reinstates Peter, he hints that Peter will be killed for his faith. Peter immediately points to John and asks, ‘What about him?’ Isn’t that just what we tend to do when we see others who seem to have better lives than ours? What do you learn from Christ’s response to Peter?

TUESDAY

Read Luke 22:31-32. What impresses you about Jesus’ words? Jesus says he prays for Peter. Did you know Jesus prays for you? 1 John 2:1 and Romans 8:34 says he is interceding for you right now. Today as you go through your day, remember Jesus is praying for you before the Father, and still has plans for you even when you fail! Let his grace capture your imagination!

WEDNESDAY

Romans 2:4b says “It’s God’s kindness that leads us to repentance.” Jesus showed kindness to his disciples by washing their feet at the Last Supper, and by forgiving them even after they abandoned him. Today listen to the “Worship Wednesday” song and revel in God’s kindness and mercy shown to you!

THURSDAY

Peter denied Christ partly because he feared the disapproval of others (and understandably so, because it might have led to his own arrest). Yet later in his life he had no such fear, going to his own crucifixion with courage. Read Proverbs 29:25. Why is fearing people a dangerous trap? If you are a “people pleaser”, ask yourself why. Often there is a deep wound underneath the need to please everyone and win approval. Learn to rest in your identity in Christ, as Peter learned to do!

FRIDAY

Read Mark 15:1-39. It’s intriguing that the Roman centurion presiding over the execution of Christ is also the first person who seems to recognize Jesus for who He is: The Son of God. The centurion had seen a lot of death. But he had never seen anyone die like this. Please pray that at the Good Friday services today, you and the many others who attend will have a similar moment of revelation as the centurion--and will see Jesus as the true Son of God.