

## Peter....The Gospel of the Second Chance

**Mark 14:66-72** - 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. 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 am lying. I don't know this man you are talking about." And immediately the rooster crowed the second time. Suddenly Jesus' words swept through Peter's mind: Before the cock crows twice, you will deny three times that you even know me. And he broke down and wept.

I wonder Peter, what has destroyed your memory...fear, shock, stress? Don't you remember answering his call to leave everything and follow him? Don't you remember the miracles...the healings, the wedding in Cana when he turned water into wine? Don't you remember the storm? He came walking on the water and you tried it....you walked with Jesus, until your courage left you. Were you not in the garden with him and did you not promise to never deny him? Ah, Peter, brave Peter, where are you now? And yet, I too have denied Jesus as Lord in many areas of my life. And now in the shadows of my life, I ask the same question you must have Peter. "How can I ever serve you, Jesus, after I have failed you so much?"

But Easter is the gospel of the second chance, Peter, and in Mark 16:6-7, He is not here! He is risen! 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." There is the gospel of the second chance for you, Peter, and for me. We are not left out because of one failure. It's not every day that we find someone who will give us a second chance, much less someone who will give us a second chance every day. But in Jesus, Peter found both, and so do you and I.

If this day finds you feeling like a series of failures are reminding you that you are a failure then WELCOME my friend to the gospel of the second chance. Let Jesus the Savior wrap you in His arms and wipe away the tears from your eyes and your soul. Peter carried the gospel of the second chance all the way to Rome where they killed him. If you have ever wondered why a man would be willing to be crucified upside down, maybe now you know. If you've ever wondered how much Jesus loves you, perhaps now you know.

**Prayer:** Wonderful Savior, sometimes we are so like Peter, we deny that we are one with you by our actions and by our words. Our memories fade and then, filled with guilt, we feel unable to approach you again. How we praise you for the gospel of the second chance. Empower us, as we walk to the Cross with you, to be filled with love and passion for you and our relationship with you. May we be empowered to love as you have loved, forgiving as you have forgiven us, and care for others as you have cared for us, for in your precious name we pray. Amen.