

Why did Peter Deny
Jesus Three Times?

Matthew 26:31–35 (NKJV)

Then Jesus said to them, “All of you will be made to stumble because of Me this night, for it is written: ‘I will strike the Shepherd, And the sheep of the flock will be scattered.’ **32** But after I have been raised, I will go before you to Galilee.” **33** Peter answered and said to Him, “Even if all are made to stumble because of You, I will never be made to stumble.” **34** Jesus said to him, “Assuredly, I say to you that this night, before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times.” **35** Peter said to Him, “Even if I have to die with You, I will not deny You!” And so said all the disciples.

Why did Peter Deny Jesus Three Times?

- He failed to watch and pray

Matthew 26:38–41 (NKJV)

Then He said to them, “My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death. Stay here and watch with Me.” **39** He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed ... **40** Then He came to the disciples and found them sleeping, and said to Peter, “What! Could you not watch with Me one hour? **41** **Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation.** The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.”

Why did Peter Deny Jesus Three Times?

- He failed to watch and pray
- He was in “fight or flight” mode

Matthew 26:50–54 (NKJV)

- ... Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and took Him. **51** And suddenly, one of those who were with Jesus stretched out his hand and drew his sword, struck the servant of the high priest, and cut off his ear. **52** But Jesus said to him, “Put your sword in its place, for all who take the sword will perish by the sword. **53** Or do you think that I cannot now pray to My Father, and He will provide Me with more than twelve legions of angels? **54** How then could the Scriptures be fulfilled, that it must happen thus?” Then all the disciples forsook Him and fled.

Why did Peter Deny Jesus Three Times?

- He failed to watch and pray
- He was in “fight or flight” mode
- He was following “from a distance”

Matthew 26:57–58 (NKJV)

And those who had laid hold of Jesus led Him away to Caiaphas the high priest, where the scribes and the elders were assembled. **58** But **Peter followed Him at a distance** to the high priest's courtyard. And he went in and sat with the servants to see the end.

Why did Peter Deny Jesus Three Times?

- He failed to watch and pray
- He was in “fight or flight” mode
- He was following “from a distance”
- He sat among the enemies of Jesus

Matthew 26:58, 69(NKJV)

And he went in and sat with the servants to see the end. ... 69 Now Peter sat outside in the courtyard.

Why did Peter Deny Jesus Three Times?

- He failed to watch and pray
- He was in “fight or flight” mode
- He was following “from a distance”
- He sat among the enemies of Jesus
- He was unsure of how things would end

Matthew 26:58 (NKJV)

And he went in and sat with the servants **to see the end.**

Why did Peter Deny Jesus Three Times?

- He failed to watch and pray
- He was in “fight or flight” mode
- He was following “from a distance”
- He sat among the enemies of Jesus
- He was unsure of how things would end
- He was surprised by an unexpected test

Matthew 26:69–70 (NKJV)

Now Peter sat outside in the courtyard. And a servant girl came to him, saying, “You also were with Jesus of Galilee.” **70** But he denied it before them all, saying, “I do not know what you are saying.”

Why did Peter Deny Jesus Three Times?

- He failed to watch and pray
- He was in “fight or flight” mode
- He was following “from a distance”
- He sat among the enemies of Jesus
- He was unsure of how things would end
- He was surprised by an unexpected test
- Each failure contributed to the next

Matthew 26:71–74 (NKJV)

And when he had gone out to the gateway, another girl saw him and said to those who were there, “This fellow also was with Jesus of Nazareth.” **72** But again he denied with an oath, “I do not know the Man!” **73** And a little later those who stood by came up and said to Peter, “Surely you also are one of them, for your speech betrays you.” **74** Then he began to curse and swear, saying, “I do not know the Man!”
Immediately a rooster crowed.

Why did Peter Deny Jesus Three Times?

- He failed to watch and pray
- He was in “fight or flight” mode
- He was following “from a distance”
- He sat among the enemies of Jesus
- He was unsure of how things would end
- He was surprised by an unexpected test
- Each failure contributed to the next
- He forgot the warnings of Jesus

Matthew 26:75 (NKJV)

And **Peter remembered the word of Jesus** who had said to him, “Before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times.” So he went out and wept bitterly.

Why did Peter Deny Jesus Three Times?

- He failed to watch and pray
- He was in “fight or flight” mode
- He was following “from a distance”
- He sat among the enemies of Jesus
- He was unsure of how things would end
- He was surprised by an unexpected test
- Each failure contributed to the next
- He forgot the warnings of Jesus
- He was not conscious of Jesus’ observation



How Can we Avoid Peter's Mistakes?

- Watch and pray!

Matthew 26:41 (NKJV)

41 Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation.

The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.”

How Can we Avoid Peter's Mistakes?

- Watch and pray!
- Avoid “fight or flight” mode

Fear of Death

Hebrews 2:14–15 - He Himself likewise shared in [flesh and blood], that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, **15** and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.

Revelation 2:10 - Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested.... Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.

Psalms 23:4 - Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.

Trust God for Your Survival

1 Peter 4:19 -Therefore let those who suffer according to the will of God commit their souls to Him in doing good, as to a faithful Creator.

Acts 20:22–24 - And see, now I go bound in the spirit to Jerusalem, not knowing the things that will happen to me there, **23** except that the Holy Spirit testifies in every city, saying that chains and tribulations await me. **24** But none of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.

Philippians 1:20–21 - according to my earnest expectation and hope that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ will be magnified in my body, whether by life or by death. **21** For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain.

How Can we Avoid Peter's Mistakes?

- Watch and pray!
- Avoid “fight or flight” mode
- Don't follow Jesus “from a distance”

James 4:8 (NKJV)

Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.
Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your
hearts, you double-minded.

How Can we Avoid Peter's Mistakes?

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- Don't follow Jesus “from a distance”
- Don't even walk in the counsels of the ungodly

Psalm 1:1 (NKJV)

Blessed is the man
Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly,
Nor stands in the path of sinners,
Nor sits in the seat of the scornful;

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- Avoid “fight or flight” mode
- Don't follow Jesus “from a distance”
- Don't even walk in the counsels of the ungodly
- Keep in mind how things will end

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- Don't be surprised by an unexpected test

1 Corinthians 10:12–13 (NKJV)

Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall. **13** No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.

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- Don't be surprised by an unexpected test
- Repent early, so each failure will contribute to the next success

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- Remember the warnings of Jesus and His apostles

Matthew 10:32–33 (NKJV)

“Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven.
33 But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven.

Titus 1:15–16 (NKJV)

To the pure all things are pure, but to those who are defiled and unbelieving nothing is pure; but even their mind and conscience are defiled. **16 They profess to know God, but in works they deny Him,** being abominable, disobedient, and disqualified for every good work.

2 Peter 2:1–2 (NKJV)

But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, **even denying the Lord** who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction. **2** And many will follow their destructive ways, because of whom the way of truth will be blasphemed.

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- Remember the warnings of Jesus and His apostles
- Be conscious of Jesus' continual observation

Jesus Sees and Knows

Revelation 2:13 - “I know your works, and where you dwell, where Satan’s throne is. And you hold fast to My name, and did not deny My faith even in the days in which Antipas was My faithful martyr, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells.

Revelation 3:8 - “I know your works. See, I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it; for you have a little strength, have kept My word, and have not denied My name.

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