



## **SERMON NOTES**

April 15, 2012

Scripture: Luke 22:54-62 (NAS)

Topic: "Great Failure and Great Hope"

Rev. Bruce Gardner

- 54 Having arrested Him, they led Him away and brought Him to the house of the high priest; but Peter was following at a distance.
- 55 After they had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and had sat down together, Peter was sitting among them.
- 56 And a servant-girl, seeing him as he sat in the firelight and looking intently at him, said, "This man was with Him too."
- 57 But he denied it, saying, "Woman, I do not know Him."
- 58 A little later, another saw him and said, "You are one of them too!" But Peter said, "Man, I am not!"
- 59 After about an hour had passed, another man began to insist, saying, "Certainly this man also was with Him, for he is a Galilean too."
- 60 But Peter said, "Man, I do not know what you are talking about." Immediately, while he was still speaking, a rooster crowed.
- 61 The Lord turned and looked at Peter. And Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how He had told him, "Before a rooster crows today, you will deny Me three times."
- 62 And he went out and wept bitterly.

### **I. PETER'S DENIAL**

#### **A. Set In Contrast To His Earlier Professions**

1. Luke 9:18-20
2. Luke 5:5-8
3. John 6:67-69

#### **B. Set In Contrast To Christ's Profession** *Luke 22:67-70*

### **II. HOW COULD A BELIEVER LIKE PETER FALL SO FAR?**

#### **A. Major Sins Do Not Just Happen**

1. More likely proceed from small failures
2. Dwelling on the temptation
3. Satan waits patiently for the bait to be taken

#### **B. Peter Had Rebelled Against Jesus' Teaching** *Mark 8:31-33*

#### **C. Peter Had Proudly Proclaimed His Faithfulness** *Luke 22:33*

### **III. PRIDE OPENS THE DOOR TO GREATER SINS**

#### **A. Peter Had His Own Plan** *Mark 8:33*

1. Peter trusted himself to be faithful
2. Satan first fell by the sin of pride *Isaiah 14:14*
3. Our boast must be in the Lord *Psalms 20:7; 34:2; I Corinthians 1:31*
4. Peter eventually learned this lesson *I Peter 5:5; Philippians 2:3,4*
5. Pride precedes failure *I Corinthians 10:13, Proverbs 16:18*

#### **B. Peter Was Under Attack By Satan**

1. Peter was oblivious to the enemy
2. Peter had failed to pray *Psalms 1:1-3*
3. Peter had attacked the servant of the high priest
4. Peter learned his lesson *I Peter 5:8*
5. Peter was beaten by a servant girl—who said I know you