

## A Study of Mark – Lesson 43

### Mark 14:66-72 Peter Betrays Jesus

14 <sup>66</sup> While Peter was below / in the courtyard, / one of the servant girls of the high priest came by. / <sup>67</sup> When she saw Peter warming himself, / she looked closely at him.

“You also were with that Nazarene, / Jesus,” / she said.

<sup>68</sup> But he denied it. / “I don’t know / or understand / what you’re talking about,” / he said, / and went out into the entryway.

<sup>69</sup> When the servant girl saw him there, / she said again to those standing around, / “This fellow is one of them.” / <sup>70</sup> Again / he denied it.

After a little while, / those standing near / said to Peter, / “Surely you are one of them, / for you are a Galilean.”

<sup>71</sup> He began to call down curses, / and he swore to them, / “I don’t know this man you’re talking about.”

<sup>72</sup> Immediately the rooster crowed / the second time. / Then Peter



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remembered the word Jesus had spoken to him: / “Before the rooster crows twice / you will disown me three times.” / And he broke down / and wept.

### ***Vocabulary***

1. **To warm oneself:** To stand near or over a fire to get warm.
2. **To weep, wept:** To cry.
3. **To Crow:** To make a noise as a Rooster does. To brag.

### ***Questions***

1. Peter knew his life was also in danger. Why did he go to the courtyard of the High Priest?
2. Do you think everyone outside knew that Jesus was being tried for his life? Why wouldn't they wake up all Jerusalem?
3. How do you think we know about this story?
4. Where do you think the other disciples were?
5. What do you think the weather was like that night?

## **Notes**

1. Peter had shown reckless courage all night. At the arrest he had attacked and wounded the servant of the High Priest. And he followed the mob holding Jesus to the High Priest's house.
2. Peter could have left quickly after he was recognized near the fire, but he chose to stay on. He did not curse the name of Jesus, but only used swear words that would call down curses on himself.
3. The Roman night was divided into four watches between 6:00PM and 6:00AM. At the end of the third watch, at 3:00AM, the guard changed and the bugle blew. The Romans called the bugle call the *gallicinium*, which is Latin for *cockcrow*. When Peter heard that bugle call, he remembered the words of Jesus.
4. The book of Mark is the preaching material of Peter. Therefore scholars believe that Peter himself told this story many times. Peter could say that he denied Jesus, and that Jesus forgave him and never stopped loving him.
5. "When we read this passage with understanding, the story of Peter's cowardice becomes an epic of courage and the story of his shame becomes a tale of glory."



Material for this lesson is taken from *The Daily Study Bible Series*.  
*The Gospel of Mark*, by William Barclay.