

15 September 2013: Preached by Rev Quek Suan Yew

Topic: **The Life of Apostle Peter – The Denial of Peter**

Scripture Text: Matthew 26:31-35

1. To deny Jesus is a serious sin and yet is very commonly committed by Christians. We commit this sin more often than we like to admit it. We can deny the Lord by our silence in defending His Name or in quietly participating with unbelievers in their ungodly activity.
2. Jesus told His 11 disciples (Judas had left) that they would be offended (v.31) which means they would be stumbled. Jesus quoted the prophecy in Zech 13:7 that the Shepherd (referring to Himself) would be smitten and the sheep (referring to disciples) would be scattered abroad. This would be happening in a few hours' time when Jesus would be arrested and then crucified at the cross.
3. The Lord Jesus encouraged the disciples in v.32 that He would rise from the dead and would meet them at Galilee. The disciples would not accept the words of Jesus. Peter then boasted that he would never be offended even if all others were offended. Peter spoke from a heart of self-confidence based on his human ability. The Lord Jesus told Peter that he would deny Him three times before the cock crow in the last watch of the night.
4. Peter said he would be willing to die for Jesus. The rest of the disciples also spoke said the same way as Peter. We know that within a few hours' time, Peter denied Jesus three times. The disciples fled away except for John. Peter realized his sin and wept bitterly and repented of his sin after his denial. This ought to be our response when we fail the Lord.
5. Often it is the fear of men that makes us deny the Lord Jesus Christ. We want to save our own skin and face and would rather choose to shame the Name of Jesus. We must pray humbly that the Lord will give us the courage and grace not to deny Him in the hour of testing.