

## **Descent Of A Disciple Matthew 26:31-35**

### **We must remain on guard**

Disciple more likely to drift away than run away

Happens in succession of small steps, not one giant leap.

Consider Peter's descent from disciple to despondency:

Read **Matthew 26:36-46**

### **Overconfidence In Self - Matthew 26:33**

While part of his personality, some other contributing factors:

One of the first chosen by Jesus - **John 1:40-42; Matthew 4:18-19; Mark 1:16-17**

Named first in apostle lists - **Matthew 10:2; Mark 3:16; Luke 6:14**

"Inner circle" of apostles - Transfiguration - **Matthew 17:1** Gethsemane - **Matthew 26:37**

Acknowledged Jesus as the Christ - **Matthew 16:18-19**

History/present "connections" in church don't immunize us from danger - **1Corinthians 10:12**

Overconfidence Often Leads To Carelessness - **Luke 22:31-34**

Need to exercise caution, remain awake & aware - **Ephesians 5:15; 1Peter 5:8-9**

### **Subtle Separation From Christ - John 18:17**

Jesus' first trial - before Annas - **John 18:12**

Question unexpected by Peter, put on spot. His private denial - subtle separation, first step.

Often when we are put "on the spot," will separate ourselves from Christ, truth, people of God.

Void of Subtle Separation - Filled by increased association w/ world: - **Matthew 12:43-45**

Comparison of Peter during Jesus' first and second trials:

1st trial - **John 18:15; John 18:18**

2nd trial (Caiaphas & Sanhedrin) - **Luke 22:54-55**

Void of Christ was filled by association with worldly people/things

Visit wayward brother, take fire coal from fireplace, let it grow cold - **1John 1:6-7**

### **Open Denials of Christ**

Servant girl accused him - **Mark 14:66-68; Luke 22:56; Matthew 26:70; Luke 22:57**

Servant girl charged him again as associate of Christ. - **Mark 14:69-70**

Those he was sitting with charged him a third time - **Mark 14:70-71; Matthew 26:72**

As we increase our association with the people and things of the world, we give Satan ammunition to openly challenge our faith; We must then make a choice - Be loyal to Christ or deny Christ!

Descent Takes One Farther Than Ever Intended - **Luke 22:59**

Peter charged third time as associate of Christ, his speech betraying him. - **Mark 14:71**

Do you think Peter ever thought he go that far in denying Christ?

Brings us to real lesson:

Sin will take you farther than you ever meant to go, will keep you longer than you ever thought you'd stay, and cost you more than you ever dreamed you'd pay!

### **Pierced By Reminders - John 18:27; Mark 14:72; Luke 22:61; Matthew 26:74-75**

"If only had listen to parents, family, friends, teachers, elders, etc."

Too late to avoid mistake!

### **Peter's Despondency - Luke 22:62; Mark 14:72; Matthew 26:75**

### **How do seemingly faithful Christians become unfaithful?**

Peter's descent from discipleship to despondency provides one way

Are you on this descent? - **1Peter 3:13-16**

Richard Boone???