

## **Am I Following Afar? Luke 22:54-62**

### **I Am A Follower**

Effectiveness many times is proportionate to distance

Some want distance between them and God

If going on a guided tour of a place we have never been before we stay with our guide to keep from getting lost

God is with those who are with him - **2John 9**

Peter's early life demonstrates the danger of following afar off

### **Peter's Confession To Jesus**

At Caesarea Philippi - **Matthew 16:13-16**

At the last supper - **Matthew 26:33; Mark 14:29; Luke 22:33; John 13:37**

Seriousness of this confession - **Matthew 7:21; Luke 6:46**

Jesus Predicts Peter's Fall - **Mark 14:27; Luke 22:31-32**

### **Peter's Action With Jesus**

Choice between two forces Jesus - Satan

Conscience says Jesus, fear says Satan;

The decision - follow but from afar

How far he followed behind only God knows

Distance is measured by attitude not necessarily feet

Partial service is no service, all or nothing - **Matthew 22:37**

Results of Peter's Decision

Denied Jesus

Lost the zeal of his confession - **Matthew 16:16; John 13:37**

Associating with the enemy - **Luke 22:55; 1Corinthians 15:33**

Enemy can be one's own family

Peter became cold and indifferent - **John 18:17**

(Preacher visiting wayward brother and taking a coal of fire from the fireplace and letting it grow cold) - **Mark 14:71**

### **Peter's Stand With The Lord**

Jesus knows unless we live our confession we are not converted - **Luke 22:32**

Peter was sorry and repented - **Matthew 26:75; Luke 22:62**

One can be sorry and not repent like Judas - **2Corinthians 7:10**

Peter demonstrated later that he was willing to live his confession

He was first to go in at the tomb - **John 20:4-7**

He preached the gospel to those who have crucified Jesus - **Acts 2:36**

After being put in prison he still stood for the Lord - **Acts 5:17-21**

Proclaimed Word to Gentiles - **Acts 10:28-29**

### **Am I Following Afar?**

Is our attitude one of seeing how far off we can follow Jesus or how close we can stay to the Lord?

Peter is a good example of both what can happen when we follow afar off and when we follow closely to the Lord

Which example of Peter's are we following?

If we are following afar off we will become guilty of the same sin as Peter and stand condemned before the Lord.

If we will follow his example later in life and be willing to live our confession before men we can be approved of God