

What had been Peter's reply?

What caused Peter to weep? Mark 14. 72.

What caused Peter to remember and think of his words and of Christ's prophecy? Luke 22. 61.

Practical Teachings.

Here was a man who thought he was strong. How weak he was! A servant-maid vanquished him with a word.

Peter's denial was caused by his own folly. He assaulted a servant of the high-priest, then went where he was almost sure to meet him.

One cannot safely go into places of spiritual danger.

Notice the steps in his fall—

"I do not know him."

"I swear, I do not know him."

"With curses and execrations, I say, I do not know him." One step downward surely leads to another.

Note the difference between Judas and Peter. Peter wept; Judas hung himself.

Never be ashamed of the tears which tell that your heart is broken for sin.

Peter kept where Jesus could see him. A look saved him. Will you not look toward Jesus?

Hints for Home Study.

1. If you can, find a description of the high-priest's palace, with court and porch and all, and see how it was possible for all these things to happen.

2. Now, think out what must have happened to Peter from the time of the arrest of Jesus till this time—where he went, what he thought, etc.

3. Review till you find where Jesus foretold the betrayal. Think what that one bit of foreknowledge proves concerning Jesus.

4. Read each account of Peter's denial, and see how well known all the circumstances were.

5. Make a comparison between Peter and Judas.

QUESTIONS FOR INTERMEDIATE SCHOLARS.

1. Denying.

What indignities were offered to Jesus by the rabble?

What did they demand that he should do?

What disciple was present in the palace?

What did a maid say to him?

What was his reply?

Where did Peter then go?

What was here said about him?

What did Peter say to this?

How did he make his denial emphatic?

Who next accused him of being a disciple?

Upon what did they base this charge?

What did Peter begin to do?

What then did he make?

What then occurred?

What warning ought each of us to heed? (GOLDEN TEXT.)

2. Repenting.

Who then turned and looked at Peter? Luke 22. 61.

Of what warning was he reminded?

What had Jesus said to him?

What did Peter then do?

What words of Peter would add to the bitterness of his sorrow? ver. 35.

Teachings of the Lesson.

Where in this lesson are we warned—

1. Against boastfulness?

2. Against untruthfulness?

3. Against profanity?

Hints for Home Study.

Learn who went with Peter to the high-priest's palace.

Learn who made the charge the third time that Peter was a disciple, and why Peter was greatly alarmed.

QUESTIONS FOR YOUNGER SCHOLARS.

Where was Jesus taken after his agony in the garden? To the palace of the high-priest in Jerusalem.

How did the Jews treat him there? They mocked him, and struck him, and spit in his face.

What disciple followed Jesus to the palace? Peter.

What did one and another of the people say to Peter?

"Thou also wast with Jesus."

What did Peter reply to them? "I know not the man."

How many times did Peter deny Jesus? Three times.

What happened after this third denial? Immediately the cock crew.

What had Peter declared to Jesus a few hours before? "If I should die with thee, I will not deny thee."

What had Jesus answered? "This night, before the cock crew twice, thou shalt deny me thrice."

What did Peter remember when he heard the cock crew? All that Jesus had said.

What did he do? He went out and wept bitterly.

Why was he so false to his promises? He was weak, and afraid of the cruel men.

What do we learn from Peter's sin? (Repeat Golden Text.)

Did Peter really love Jesus? Yes; but he was boastful, and hasty in word and deed.

What would have given him courage to face his enemies and stand up for Jesus? Prayer in the garden with Jesus.

Words with Little People.

Do you ever deny Jesus? Before your enemies? Before your friends?

When you hear others making fun of him, do you stand up bravely for him?

Are you doing all you can to show him that you remember his cruel suffering?

Are you ever ashamed of loving him?

"If any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed."

"If we suffer, we shall also reign with him."

THE LESSON CATECHISM.

1. Where was Peter when he denied Jesus? In the high-priest's palace. 2. What was the cause of his first denial? The charge that he was a disciple. 3. What was there about Peter himself that proved he was false? His speech proved he was from Galilee. 4. What caused Peter to remember Christ's prophecy? The crowing of the cock. 5. What caused him to weep bitterly? The look of the Lord. 6. What is the lesson for each of us? "Wherefore, let him," etc.

THE CHURCH CATECHISM.

56. What is regeneration? It is the new birth of the soul in the image of Christ, whereby we become the children of God. Eph. 1. 5; John 1. 12, 13; 3. 3; Eph. 4. 24; 1 John 3. 2.

57. What is sanctification? Sanctification is that act of divine grace whereby we are made holy. 1 Thess. 5. 23; Eph. 1. 4; Col. 1. 22; Heb. 13. 12.

ANALYTICAL AND BIBLICAL OUTLINE.

The Steps of Peter's Fall.

I. SELF-CONFIDENCE.

Die with thee....not deny thee. v. 35.

"Exalt himself....abased." Matt. 23. 12.

"Thinketh he standeth, take heed." 1 Cor. 10. 12.

II. INDOLENCE.

Saith unto Peter, What, etc. v. 40.

"High time to awake." Rom. 13. 11.

"Be sober, be vigilant." 1 Pet. 5. 8.

III. FEAR OF MAN.

Peter followed him afar off. v. 58.

"Fear of man bringeth a snare." Prov. 29. 25.

"Be thou faithful unto death." Rev. 2. 10.

IV. EVIL COMPANY.

Peter sat without in the palace. v. 69.

"Evil communications corrupt." 1 Cor. 15. 33.

"Companion of fools....destroyed." Prov. 13. 20.

V. DISLOYALTY.

He denied before them all. v. 70.

"Confess me before men." Matt. 10. 32.

"Ashamed of me and of my words." Luke 9. 26.

VI. FALSEHOOD.

And again he denied. v. 72.

"Lie not one to another." Col. 3. 9.

"All liars....fire and brimstone." Rev. 21. 8.