

Wisdom not Worry
Thursday, April 9, 2020
Mark 14 66 -72

“But he denied it” (68).

Peter talks a good game –“Even if all fall away on account of you, Jesus, I never will. Even if I have to die with you, I will never disown you” (Mt. 26:31-35). But when it came time to play, he failed miserably. When on that Thursday night of Jesus’ arrest, a servant girl noticed, “Hey you! You also were with that Nazarene, Jesus!” He denied it. Crumbling under the weight of cowardice he shot back, “I don’t know what you’re talking about!” and he walked away.

It is hard to imagine this same Peter would one day stand before thousands to boldly proclaim the gospel and eventually be martyred for the faith. How does betraying Peter become bold Peter? How is his gutless cowardice transformed into gospel courage? He experienced the power of the cross of Christ.

When convicted of his denial he *REPENTED*, “he broke down and wept” (71). Rather than hiding from Jesus in shame, he *RAN* to Jesus. The next time he saw Jesus was after the resurrection. While still a hundred yards out to sea, Peter “wrapped his outer garment around him and jumped into the water” to go to him (John 21:8). Reaching Jesus, he sat at His table and *RECEIVED* the gracious hospitality of bread and fish, of grace and forgiveness Jesus had prepared – “Jesus said, ‘Come have breakfast.’ ...and He took the bread and gave it to them and did the same with the fish” (John 21:12).

Have you disappointed Jesus? Are you burdened with guilt and shame? Experience the power of the cross. *Repent. Run* to Jesus. *Receive* his forgiveness. He makes the weak strong.

With Love,
Pastor Ben