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## **Struggling Faith**

Definitions in **bold letters** are from **Strong's** Exhaustive Concordance  
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or Roget's Thesaurus – **March 20, 2016**

## **Mark 14:26-31, 66-72**

**Introduction:** In this chapter begins the account which this evangelist gives of the death and sufferings of our Lord Jesus, which we are all concerned to be acquainted, not only with the history of, but with the **mystery of**. Here is, **I.** The plot of the chief priests and scribes against Christ (v. 1, v. 2). **II.** The anointing of Christ's head at a supper in Bethany, two days before his death (v. 3-9). **III.** The contract Judas made with the chief priests, to betray him (v. 10, v. 11). **IV.** Christ's eating the passover with his disciples, his instituting the Lord's supper, and his discourse with his disciples, at and after supper (v. 12-31). **V.** Christ's agony in the garden (v. 32-42). **VI.** The betraying of him by **Judas**, and the apprehending of him by the chief priests' agents (v. 43-52). **VII.** His arraignment (accusation) before the high priest, his conviction, and the indignities done him at that bar (v. 53-65). **VIII.** **Peter's denying** him (v. 66-72). Most of which passages we had before, Mt. 26. (Source: <http://www.biblestudytools.com/commentaries/matthew-henry-complete/mark/14.html>)

**Thought 1.** The events of this lesson can also be found in **Matthew 26:20-37, Luke 22:14-62,** and **John 18:1-27.** And in order to get a GOOD understanding, we'll look at these scriptures also in our study about Jesus' prayer and arrest.

**Mark 14:22-24,** *And as they did eat, Jesus took **bread**, and **blessed**, and brake it, and gave to them, and said, Take, eat: this is **my body**. And he took the **cup**, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them: and they all drank of it. And he said unto them, This is **my blood** of the **new testament (covenant)**, which is **shed** for many.*

**NOTE: And as they did eat,**.... The paschal lamb, and the unleavened bread, just at the conclusion of that feast: **Jesus took bread, and blessed, and brake it;** beginning and instituting a NEW FEAST, to be kept in aftertimes, in commemoration of his sufferings and death, now near at hand; and gave to them, the disciples, **when he had given thanks,** ... Over it, and for it, by blessing it, and appropriating it to the present USE and service: he gave it to them; his disciples, **and they all drank of it;** Judas, as well as the rest, as he bid them do; See Gill on Matthew 26:27. ...**he said unto them,**.... Not AFTER they had drank of it, but BEFORE, and as he gave it to them: this is my blood of the **New Testament,** which is shed for many; in Matthew it is added, "for the remission of sins"; See Gill on Matthew 26:28. (Source: <https://www.studydrive.org/commentaries/geb/view.cgi?bk=mr&ch=14#1>)

**Mark 14:25,** *Verily I say unto you, I will drink no more of the fruit of the vine, until that day that I drink it **new** in the **kingdom of God (Supreme [Highest] Divinity [Deity]).***

**Matthew 26:29,** But I say unto you, I shall not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine,

until that day when I drink it new with you in **my Father's kingdom.**

**NOTE:** ...I drink it **NEW with you in my Father's kingdom.** Acceptance of the words in their obvious and **literal sense** is not merely **possible** but quite **illuminating.** Three conditions prerequisite to his partaking of the fruit of the vine with his disciples were spelled out: **(1)** it would be "new" wine; **(2)** it would be with his disciples; and **(3)** it would be "in" the kingdom.

(Source: <https://www.studyight.org/commentaries/bcc/view.cgi?bk=mt&ch=26#1>)

**Luke 22:31-32,** And the Lord said, **Simon, Simon,** behold, **Satan hath desired** to have you, that he may sift you as wheat: But I have prayed for thee, that thy **FAITH fail not:** and when thou art **converted, strengthen** thy brethren.

**Mark 14:26-28,** And when they had sung an hymn, they went out into the **mount of Olives.** And Jesus saith unto them, All ye shall be **offended (trip up)** because of me this night: for it is written, I will smite the **shepherd,** and the **sheep** shall be **SCATTERED.** But **AFTER** that **I am risen,** I will go before you into **Galilee.**

**Thought 1.** Jesus, spoke these words because he KNEW that his Father had kept HIDDEN the understanding from them. So, their faith couldn't help but "struggle" apart from an understanding of the scriptures.

**Luke 9:44-45,** Let these sayings sink down into your ears: for the Son of man shall be delivered into the hands of men. But they **understood not** this saying, and it was **HID from them,** that they **perceived it not:** and they **feared** to ask him of that saying.

**Luke 18:33-34** ...And they shall scourge him, and put him **to death:** and the **THIRD** day he shall rise again. And they understood **NONE** of these things: and **this saying** was **HID (to conceal, keep secret)** from them, neither knew they the things which were spoken.

**Thought 2.** The truth is keeping the disciples in the dark until Jesus rose from the dead was God's way of protecting them during the time of his arrest and crucifixion.

**John 18:7-9,** Then asked he them again, Whom seek ye? And they said, Jesus of Nazareth. Jesus answered, I have told you that I am he: if therefore ye seek me, LET THESE GO their way: That the saying might **be fulfilled,** which he spake, **Of them which thou gavest me have I LOST NONE.**

**Thought 3.** But, after Jesus was raised, he appeared to them, shared the scriptures about himself, and "OPENED their understanding" so they would no longer struggle in faith. After the day of Pentecost, we see a "strong faith" in all of his apostles.

**Luke 24:27, 44-45,** And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he **expounded (explain thoroughly)** unto them in all the **scriptures** the things concerning himself. ...And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were **written** in the **LAW** of **MOSES,** and in the **PROPHETS,** and in the **PSALMS,** concerning me. Then **OPENED he** their **understanding,** that they might **understand** the **scriptures...**

**Mark 14:29,** But **Peter** said unto him, Although **all** shall be **offended,** yet will **not I.**

**Thought 1.** Peter is only voicing his commitment to his Teacher, the Christ, the Son of the living God. From the scriptures, God had given a number of revelations to Peter and the apostles about the Messiah. But, as we saw, there were some things God HID for their own good until the time for them to be revealed. So, what Peter said is what he believed was the case. His mind probably went back to what happened in John 6 and his words to Jesus.

**John 6:66-69**, From that time many of **his disciples** **went back**, and **walked no more** with him. Then said Jesus unto the twelve, **WILL YE ALSO GO AWAY?** Then Simon Peter answered him, **Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life.** And we believe and are **SURE** that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God.

**Mark 14:30**, And Jesus saith unto him, Verily I say unto thee, That this day, even in *this night*, before the **cock crow TWICE**, thou shalt **deny me THRICE**.

**Matthew 26:34**, Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, That **this night**, before the COCK CROW, thou shalt **deny me THRICE**.

**NOTE:** ...**this night before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice**; which is, as if he should say, thou wilt not only be offended because of me, and flee from me, and be scattered with the rest, as will be the case of all of you; but thou wilt deny that thou knowest me, that thou belongest to me, or hast any concern with me; and this thou wilt do not only once, but again and again, even **three times**, one after another, and that this very night, before the **cock** has **done crowing**. In Mark it is said, "that this day, even in this night, before the cock crow twice, thou shalt deny me thrice",

Mark 14:30; which may be reconciled with the words of Matthew, and the other evangelists, by observing, that the word "**twice**" is not in Beza's ancient copy, which he gave to the university of Cambridge, nor is it in the Ethiopic version; which if allowed to be the true reading, the difficulty is removed at once; but whereas it is in other copies, no stress must be laid on this, nor is there any need of it: for whereas the **cock crows twice in the night, once at midnight**, and again **near break of day**; and which **LATTER CROWING** being louder, and more welcome, and most taken notice of, is, by way of eminence, called the **cock crowing**; and is what Matthew here has respect to, and so designs the same as Mark does; and the sense of both is, that **before the cock crow a second time**, which is most properly the cock crowing, Peter should three times deny his master, as he did...

(Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/geb/view.cgi?bk=mt&ch=26#1>)

**Mark 14:31**, But he spake the more **vehemently** (with great zeal or feeling), **If I should die with thee, I will not deny thee in any wise. LIKEWISE also said THEY ALL.**

**Thought 1.** Some commentators don't give Peter the credit he's due for the **FEELINGS** he obviously has for his teacher. But, IF we've learned anything about this "spiritual war" in which we find ourselves, we know that having the "right feelings" toward our Lord is not where strength is found. Strength is found in wisdom and understanding of God's word.

**Proverbs 24:3, 5, 10**, Through **wisdom** is an house builded; and by **understanding** it is **established (stand perpendicular, be stable)**...

... A **WISE** man is **STRONG**; yea, a man of knowledge increaseth **strength**.

... If thou **faint (slacken, cease, lose courage)** in the day of **adversity**, thy **strength** is small.

**Ecclesiastes 7:19**, **WISDOM** strengtheneth the **WISE** more than ten mighty men which are in the city.

**Mark 14:53-54, 66**, And they **led** Jesus **away** to the high priest: and with him were assembled all the chief priests and the elders and the scribes. And **Peter followed him afar off, even into the palace** of the high priest: and he sat with the servants, and **warmed himself at the fire**. ...And as **Peter** was **beneath** **IN the palace**, there cometh one of the **maids** of the high priest...

**NOTE:** ...Peter followed him afar off,.. And did another disciple, perhaps John; John 18:15, who having somewhat recovered themselves from their fright, **turned back**, and followed Jesus, and the company that led him away; keeping at some distance, that they might **not** be observed, and **exposed to danger**; and proceeded till they came to Jerusalem, and to the place where the Sanhedrim were convened; and the other disciple went in along with Jesus; and Peter afterwards, by his means, got in: **even into the palace of the high priest**; being let in by her that kept the door, at the motion of the other disciple  
...he sat with the servants; as if he was one of them, and had no concern with Jesus...  
(Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/geb/view.cgi?bk=mr&ch=14#1>)

**John 18:15-18**, And **Simon Peter followed Jesus**, and **SO DID another disciple**: that disciple was known unto the high priest, and went in with Jesus into the palace of the high priest. But **Peter stood at the door** without. Then **went out** that other disciple, which was known unto the high priest, and spake unto her that kept the door, and **brought IN Peter**. Then saith the **damsel** that **kept the door** unto **Peter**, Art not thou also one of this man's disciples? He saith, I am not. And the servants and officers stood there, who had made a fire of coals; for it was cold: and they **warmed themselves**: and **Peter stood with them**, and **warmed himself**.

**Thought 1.** This shows these two apostles had more strength than the other NINE.

**Mark 14:67**, And when she **SAW Peter warming himself**, she looked upon him, and said, And thou also wast with Jesus of Nazareth.

**Matthew 26:69**, Now Peter sat without in the palace: and a damsel came unto him, saying, Thou also wast with Jesus of Galilee.

**NOTE:** Now Peter sat without in the palace - Mark says the **first denial** took place while Peter was "beneath in the palace." This "palace" was the large hall or court belonging to the residence of the **high priest**. The part of it where Jesus and the council were was "**elevated**," probably above the rest for a tribunal. Peter was "beneath or in the "lower part" of the hall, with the servants at the fire. Yet, as Matthew says, he sat without in the palace - that is, out of the palace where they were trying Jesus - to wit, in the **lower part of the hall** with the servants: both narratives are therefore consistent.

**And a damsel came unto him** - John 18:17 says that this damsel was one that kept the door.

**Thou also wast with Jesus of Galilee** - Probably she suspected him from his being in company with John. This was in the early part of the trial of Jesus.

(Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/bnb/view.cgi?bk=39&ch=26>)

**Luke 22:56**, But a certain maid beheld him as he **sat by the fire**, and earnestly looked upon him, and said, This man was also with him.

**Mark 14:68**, But **he denied**, saying, I know not, **neither understand** I what thou sayest. And he went out into the **porch**; and the **cock crew**.

**NOTE:** But he denied,...That he was with Jesus, or a disciple of his: **neither understand I what thou sayest**; about him, and of being with him: the last phrase, "neither understand I", is omitted in the Syriac and Persic versions: **and he went out into the porch**; adjoining to the palace, to consider what to do, being surprised and confounded at such a challenge: **and the cock crew**; the **first time**, being about **midnight**; and yet he took no notice of it, nor remembered what Christ had but a few hours before said to him: or if he did, he might hope he should not meet with another attack, or he should have more

courage and strength than to deny a second time.

(Source: <https://www.studydrive.org/commentaries/geb/view.cgi?bk=mr&ch=14#1>)

**Luke 22:57**, And **he denied him**, saying, Woman, I know him not.

**Mark 14:69-70**, And a maid saw him again, and began to say to them that stood by, This is ONE of them. And he **denied it AGAIN**.

**Matthew 26:71-72**, And when he was gone out into **the porch**, **another maid** saw him, and said unto them that were there, This fellow was also with Jesus of Nazareth. And **again he denied** with an oath, I do not know the man.

**NOTE: ...the porch** - The "entrance," or the small apartment between the outer door and the large hall in the center of the building. See plan of a house, Notes, Matt 9:1-8. Peter was embarrassed and confused by the question, and to save his confusion from **attracting notice**, he went away from the fire into the porch, where he expected to be unobserved - yet in vain. By the very movement to avoid detection, he came into contact with another who knew him and repeated the charge. How clearly does it prove that our Lord was omniscient, that all these things were foreseen!

**Another maid saw him** - Mark simply says that "a maid" saw him. From Luke it would appear that "a man" spoke to him, **Luke 22:58**. The truth probably is that both were done. When he first went out, "a maid" charged him with being a follower of Jesus. He was probably there a considerable time. To this charge he might have been silent, thinking, perhaps, that he was concealed, and there was no need of **denying Jesus** then. Yet it is very likely that the charge would be repeated. A "man," also, might have repeated it; and Peter, irritated, provoked, perhaps thinking that he was in **danger**, **"then" denied his Master** the **SECOND TIME**. This denial was in a stronger manner and with an oath. While in the porch, Mark says, the cock crew - that is, the first crowing, or not far from midnight.

(Source: <https://www.studydrive.org/commentaries/bnb/view.cgi?bk=39&ch=26>)

**Luke 22:58**, And after a little while another saw him, and said, Thou art also of them. And Peter said, **Man, I am not**.

**Mark 14:70**, And a little after, they that stood by said again to Peter, Surely thou art one of them: for thou art a **Galilaean**, and **thy speech** agreeth thereto

**Matthew 26:73**, And after a while came unto him they that stood by, and said to Peter, Surely thou also art one of them; for **thy speech** bewrayeth thee.

**NOTE:** Your **language** makes it manifest that you are of his company. That is, as Mark adds, he was a "Galilean," and in this way his speech betrayed him. It is probable that the Galileans were distinguished for some peculiarity of pronunciation, perhaps some unique rusticity (simplicity) or coarseness in their manner of speaking, that distinguished them from the **refinement** of the capital, Jerusalem. This charge, John says John 18:26, was supported by the express affirmation of a kinsman of **Malchus**, the **servant** of the **high priest**, that he had seen him in the garden.

(Source: <https://www.studydrive.org/commentaries/bnb/view.cgi?bk=39&ch=26>)

**Luke 22:59**, And about the space of **one hour** after another confidently affirmed, saying, Of a truth this fellow also was with him: for he is a **Galilaean**.

**John 18:25-26**, And Simon Peter stood and warmed himself. **THEY** said therefore unto him, Art not thou also one of his disciples? **He denied it**, and said, I am not. One of the servants of the high priest, being his kinsman whose EAR **Peter cut off**, saith, Did not I see thee in the garden with him?

**Mark 14:71**, But he began to **curse** (deny with invoking evil upon any one) and to **swear** (utter a solemn declaration, with an appeal to God for the truth of what is affirmed), saying, **I know not this man** of whom ye speak.

**Matthew 26:74**, Then began he to **curse** and to **swear**, saying, I know **not** the man.

**NOTE:** Then began he to curse ... - Peter was now **irritated** beyond endurance. He could no longer resist the evidence that he was known. It had been repeatedly charged on him. His language had betrayed him, and there was a positive witness who had seen him. He felt it necessary, therefore, to be still more decided, and he accordingly added to the **sin** of denying his Lord the deep aggravation of **profane cursing** and **swearing**, affirming what he must have **known was false**, that he knew not the man. (Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/bnb/view.cgi?bk=39&ch=26>)

**Mark 14:72**, And the **second time** the **cock crew**. And Peter **called to mind** the word that Jesus said unto him, Before the cock CROW TWICE, thou shalt DENY ME THRICE. And when **he thought thereon**, **he wept**.

**Matthew 26:74-75**, And immediately the **cock crew**. And Peter **remembered the word** of Jesus, which said unto him, Before the cock CROW, thou shalt DENY ME THRICE. And he went out, and **WEPT bitterly**.

**NOTE:** Immediately then the **cock crew** - that is, the **second crowing**, or not far from **three** in the morning. (Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/bnb/view.cgi?bk=39&ch=26>)

**Luke 22:60-62**, And Peter said, Man, I know not what thou sayest. And immediately, while he yet spake, the cock crew. And **the Lord turned**, and **LOOKED upon Peter**. And Peter **remembered the word** of the Lord, how he had said unto him, Before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice. And Peter **went out, and wept bitterly**.

**NOTE:** And the Lord turned,... Himself, his back being to Peter, whilst he was examining before the high priest; but he knew full well what he was doing, what had been said to Peter, and how often he had denied him: **and looked upon Peter**; with his bodily eyes, with great earnestness, expressing in his looks concern and PITY for him; for it was a look, not of wrath and resentment, but of LOVE and MERCY, and power went along with it; it was not only a signal to Peter, to put him in remembrance of what he had said, but it was a melting look to him, and a means of convincing and **humbling** him, and of bringing him to **repentance....** **and Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said unto him, before the cock crow, thou shall deny me thrice...** (Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/geb/view.cgi?bk=lu&ch=22#1>)

**John 18:27**, Peter then **denied again**: and immediately the **cock crew**.

**Thought 1.** Jesus said, and did exactly what his Father revealed to him should be said and done concerning his apostles, and especially Peter. God also revealed Satan's intentions for his denial of Jesus, who warned Peter, and told him he had prayed for him. Knowing what was still IN Peter regardless of his denial, Jesus looked up just at the proper time for God to use his MERCY and TRUTH to help purge Peter of his sin. Jesus used these two "THINGS" that pertain to God, to bring Peter to repentance.

And even today, in one way or another, God still uses his MERCY and TRUTH, to purge Christ's body of the things that displease him. It's always been what he uses, and it will always be what he uses to accomplish this goal.

**Proverbs 16:6-7**, By **MERCY (good deed, lovingkindness, PITY)** and **TRUTH** iniquity is **purged**: and by the **FEAR** of the LORD men DEPART from evil.