

When Our Rooster Crows

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake)

Introduction:

- A. The Adversary is a skilled enemy with many weapons in his arsenal.
 - 1. Every part of a Christian's life is vulnerable to his attacks. When a Christian forgets that Satan has effective attack weapons that target the spiritually strong, he becomes vulnerable to falling - 1Cor. 10:12.
 - 2. We know that the Adversary effectively defeats those who rebel against God, those who are self-willed, and those who are weak or foolish.
 - 3. What about the spiritually strong, who overcame strong temptations? What about the person who built his faith on God's word and is committed to God's service? What about those serving others and who worship God from the heart? Is this person beyond Satan's attack?
 - 4. Ask such persons if they are strong and good and they will respond that they have weaknesses. But ask if their weaknesses make them likely to fall, and paradoxically they become angry.

I. PETER WAS A WHOLEHEARTED MAN

A. John 6:68; Luke 9:28; Matt. 16:16-17, 26:36-37, 31-33; Acts 2:14, 11:16-17

II. PETER'S WHOLEHEARTEDNESS MADE HIM VULNERABLE TO FALLING

A. Matt. 16:21-23; John 18:7-11; Matt. 26:33-35; Luke 22:31-34

- 1. That was Peter's weakness: Peter had tremendous confidence in Peter.
- 2. He trusted his commitment. He trusted his loyalty. He trusted his judgment. He trusted his strength.
- 3. He was so confident in himself he could not imagine a situation too big for him to handle - Prov. 16:18
- 4. He devoutly believed in Jesus, but he believed in himself more.

III. WHEN OUR ROOSTER CROWS

A. The Adversary's most powerful weapon against the spiritually strong is to attack through their confidence in themselves.

- 1. Just as Peter did not accept the warning of his impending fall, so the strong today often resist the same warning.
- 2. Ironically, the stronger and more mature a person becomes, the easier it is for him to believe he is taking care of the Lord instead of the Lord taking care of him, just like Peter.

B. Peter's fall - Luke 22:54-62

- 1. When the cock crowed for Peter, he wept, was broken, retreated in confusion, but ultimately let the Lord put him together again to be an even stronger servant. A healthy response.
 - a. He was beset with pride, but he later went on to practice and preach humility - 1Peter 5:5-6
 - b. He was self-indulgent, sleeping in the Garden, but he went on to practice and preach diligence - 1Peter 5:8-9

- c. He was cowardly, following Jesus at a distance; but, he went on to practice and preach courage - 1Peter 4:16
- d. He was worldly, warming himself with the opponents of Jesus; but, he went on to practice and preach detachment from the world - 1Peter 2:11-12

C. What will happen when we fall?

- 1. What often happens when the strong fall?
- 2. Inevitably we will be tested in ways we did not anticipate. As a result we often make mistakes we never thought we were capable of making.
- 3. What will we do when the rooster crows for us?
 - a. Quit in hurt, frustration, and despair, never to serve again?
 - b. Be a permanent, negative critic? Proof that we served by pride
 - c. Or humble ourselves and repent, learn from our mistakes, and serve even more?
- 4. We cannot be told to trust in God instead of ourselves; we must learn to trust in God instead of ourselves.
 - a. Beware; there is a lot of Peter in all of us.

Conclusion:

- A. "Sometimes it takes a good fall to really know where you stand." (Hayley Williams)
- B. "It's not the failures in our life that define us, it's the moments when we decide that getting back up is what matters." (Joel Brown)
- C. Rom. 11:20; Isa. 66:2