

Jesus 101

“Grace Thoughts”



A short devotional to help get you excited about Jesus!

Jesus said to him [Peter], “Truly I say to you, that this very night, before a rooster crows twice, you yourself will deny Me three times.” –Mark 14:30

I confess that I am embarrassed about what I am about to tell, but it was an important lesson for me, so here we go. After finishing a master’s degree in organizational behavior, I enrolled in a master’s degree in biblical studies. I had done well in my first graduate degree, and I got a little self-confident. I thought that my second graduate degree would be a breeze, especially because I was born in a pastor’s home and had studied the Bible since childhood. *What are they really going to teach me?* I thought. Oh boy! Was I in for a surprise! God humbled me big-time! I felt like I was back in kindergarten! I realized that I knew so little!

Unhealthy self-confidence results in a dark pit. The disciple Peter always knew better than everyone else. And when Jesus told His disciples that all of them would abandon Him, Peter protested. Jesus added a revelation of hope: “But after I have been raised, I will go ahead of you to Galilee” (Mark 14:28), yet Peter missed this completely. That Jesus would imply that he, Simon Peter, would abandon Him, well . . . that was offensive! *Maybe some of your weaker disciples might leave you, but not me! I am Peter!* “Even though all may fall away, yet I will not” (verse 29). But Jesus knew what would happen; He knew about Peter’s weaknesses more than Peter himself. So, Jesus made it a bit more specific, using the second person singular, explaining unequivocally that Peter would fail: “This very night, before a rooster crows twice, *you yourself* will deny Me three times” (verse 30). Peter kept insisting that he wouldn’t. But Jesus knows us intimately; He even has a foreknowledge of our failures. Yet, He always offers us His grace and hope, which sometimes we miss because we are feeling strong. The story of Peter’s downward spiral is picked up again in Mark 14:66, and it will only take seven verses to describe one of the most complete failures of a follower of Jesus. If you find yourself at the bottom of a dark pit that you never imagined, remember that Jesus already knew about it and has provided a way out for you through His sacrifice.