



## Peter's Comeback

**Comeback** - To win or succeed after being close to defeat or failure.

### Jesus Predicts Peter's Denial

<sup>31</sup> On the way, Jesus told them, "Tonight all of you will desert me. For the Scriptures say,

*'God will strike the Shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.'*

<sup>32</sup> But after I have been raised from the dead, I will go ahead of you to Galilee and meet you there."<sup>33</sup> Peter declared, "Even if everyone else deserts you, I will never desert you."

<sup>34</sup> Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, Peter—this very night, before the rooster crows, you will deny three times that you even know me."

<sup>35</sup> "No!" Peter insisted. "Even if I have to die with you, I will never deny you!" And all the other disciples vowed the same. **Matthew 26:31-35 NLT**

### Peter Denies Jesus

<sup>69</sup> Meanwhile, Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. A servant girl came over and said to him, "You were one of those with Jesus the Galilean."

<sup>70</sup> But Peter denied it in front of everyone. "I don't know what you're talking about," he said.

<sup>71</sup> Later, out by the gate, another servant girl noticed him and said to those standing around, "This man was with Jesus of Nazareth."

<sup>72</sup> Again Peter denied it, this time with an oath. "I don't even know the man," he said.

<sup>73</sup> A little later some of the other bystanders came over to Peter and said, "You must be one of them; we can tell by your Galilean accent."

<sup>74</sup> Peter swore, "A curse on me if I'm lying—I don't know the man!" And immediately the rooster crowed. <sup>75</sup> Suddenly, Jesus' words flashed through Peter's mind: "Before the rooster crows, you will deny three times that you even know me." And he went away, weeping bitterly. **Matthew 26:69-75 NLT**

### IT IS NEVER TOO LATE FOR A COMEBACK!

- A temporary loss does not mean permanent defeat.

<sup>31</sup> "Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift each of you like wheat. <sup>32</sup> But I have pleaded in prayer for you, Simon, that your faith should not fail. So when you have repented and turned to me again, strengthen your brothers." **Luke 22:31-32 NLT**

### Peter Preaches to the Crowd

<sup>22</sup> "People of Israel, listen! God publicly endorsed Jesus the Nazarene by doing powerful miracles, wonders, and signs through him, as you well know.<sup>23</sup> But God knew what would happen, and his prearranged plan was carried out when Jesus was betrayed. With the help of lawless Gentiles, you nailed him to a cross and killed him. <sup>24</sup> But God released him from the horrors of death and raised him back to life, for death could not keep him in its grip..."

<sup>32</sup> "God raised Jesus from the dead, and we are all witnesses of this. <sup>33</sup> Now he is exalted to the place of highest honor in heaven, at God's right hand. And the Father, as he had promised, gave him the Holy Spirit to pour out upon us, just as you see and hear today." **Acts 2:22-24, 32-33 NLT**

<sup>36</sup> "So let everyone in Israel know for certain that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, to be both Lord and Messiah!"

<sup>37</sup> Peter's words pierced their hearts, and they said to him and to the other apostles, "Brothers, what should we do?"

<sup>38</sup> Peter replied, "Each of you must repent of your sins and turn to God, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." **Acts 2:36-38 NLT**

### PETER NO LONGER DENIES JESUS, BUT BOLDLY PROCLAIMS JESUS!

- Peter preaches repentance because he understood the power of it.
- Peter proclaimed hope to those that had blown it.

### Peter Preaches in the Temple

<sup>12</sup> Peter saw his opportunity and addressed the crowd. "People of Israel," he said, "what is so surprising about this? And why stare at us as though we had made this man walk by our own power or godliness? <sup>13</sup> For it is the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob—the God of all our ancestors—who has brought glory to his servant Jesus by doing this. This is the same Jesus whom you handed over and rejected before Pilate, despite Pilate's decision to release him. <sup>14</sup> You rejected this holy, righteous one and instead demanded the release of a murderer. <sup>15</sup> You killed the author of life, but God raised him from the dead. And we are witnesses of this fact!

<sup>16</sup> "Through faith in the name of Jesus, this man was healed—and you know how crippled he was before. Faith in Jesus' name has healed him before your very eyes." **Acts 3:12-16 NLT**

### Peter and John before the Council

<sup>5</sup> The next day the council of all the rulers and elders and teachers of religious law met in Jerusalem. <sup>6</sup> Annas the high priest was there, along with Caiaphas, John, Alexander, and other relatives of the high priest. <sup>7</sup> They brought in the two disciples and demanded, "By what power, or in whose name, have you done this?"

<sup>8</sup> Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers and elders of our people, <sup>9</sup> are we being questioned today because we've done a good deed for a crippled man? Do you want to know how he was healed? <sup>10</sup> Let me clearly state to all of you and to all the people of Israel that he was healed by the powerful name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, the man you crucified but whom God raised from the dead. <sup>11</sup> For Jesus is the one referred to in the Scriptures, where it says, 'The stone that you builders rejected has now become the cornerstone.'

<sup>12</sup> *There is salvation in no one else! God has given no other name under heaven by which we must be saved.*"

<sup>13</sup> *The members of the council were amazed when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, for they could see that they were ordinary men with no special training in the Scriptures. They also recognized them as men who had been with Jesus. Acts 4:5-13 NLT*

**Next steps for me today...**

- **Repent of your sins and turn to God.**
- **Begin your comeback!**