**PETER’S TRIPLE-DOUBLE, PART I—DENIAL**

Luke 22:54-62

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**INTRODUCTION**

Triple-double is a term popularized by basketball statisticians. It means a player scored 10 or more points, had 10 or more rebounds, and had 10 or more assists. I am borrowing this term to describe what we see in Peter’s life: a triple denial and a triple questioning/restoration. Hence, we can see a triplet doubled, or a triple-double. During the last supper, Peter has boasted he will follow Jesus even if it means dying for Him. Jesus foretold his triple denial. Then, following the Great High Priestly Prayer, Jesus is taken by soldiers to the High Priest’s house. Peter follows “afar off,” not the ideal way to stay close to Jesus. He is like many Christians today who prefer to follow afar off. Doing so makes a person susceptible to easy denial of Christ. Let us see what we can learn from this experience.

1. **PETER’S TRIPLE DENIAL**
2. Peter’s first denial is a denial of **union** with Jesus Himself (vv. 56-57).
3. Peter is confronted by a servant girl who accuses him of being “**with** Him.”

*(Peter has been his right-hand man and has been seen at His side.)*

1. Peter is basically denying that He is a **believer**.
2. Peter’s second denial is a denial of the **brotherhood** of believers (v. 58).
3. Peter is confronted by a man who says he was “**one** of **them**.”

*(Peter is guilty by association because of the friends he keeps.)*

1. Peter is basically denying that he is a part of the **community** of faith.
2. Peter’s third denial is a denial of being a traveling **companion** of Jesus (vv. 59-60).
3. Peter is confronted by another who accuses him of being from the **same** **area** and, thus, “with Him.”

*(Peter is guilty because he is different from the people in Jerusalem.)*

1. Peter is basically denying that he is a **follower** of Christ.

*In his arrogant pride, he followed Christ but only afar off. In his three denials, Peter has completely denied everything associated with Christianity: being in union with Christ, being a part of the family of God, and being His traveling companion. The denial is complete. He has cut himself off completely from the source of life and hope.*

1. **PETER’S TEARFUL DEPARTURE**
2. Two things happen that remind Peter of what he has done: the rooster **crows** and Jesus turns and **looks** at him (vv. 60-61).
3. Peter **remembered** the Lord’s words foretelling his three denials.
4. Peter went out into the darkness and **wept** bitterly.

**CONCLUSION**

Peter’s fall into disgrace is sure and complete. He has dishonored the name of Jesus Christ by his denials. He has done exactly the opposite of what he had boasted he would do only a few hours before. Lest we judge him too harshly and too self-righteously, let us remember how many times we have denied Christ in one way or another. It always seems that we deny Him when we think we are least likely to do so. When we feel good about our spiritual journey, Satan comes along and easily trips us up—just as he did with Peter. Let us not judge him harshly. Take heed lest you also fall. Let us, rather, remember our own precarious position and ask for God’s grace and God’s presence to enable us to overcome temptation—whenever it may come our way. May God help and deliver us!

*“Amazing love, how can it be that You, my King, would die for me?*

*Amazing love, I know it’s true; it’s my joy to honor You.*

*In all I do I honor you.”*