

Luke 22:34

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he said, I tell thee, Peter, the cock shall not crow this day, before that thou shalt thrice deny that thou knowest me.

Analysis

Peter, the cock shall not crow this day, before that thou shalt thrice deny that thou knowest me—Jesus's specific prediction (τρίς ἀπαρνήση, tris aparnese—three times you will deny) demonstrates divine omniscience and sets up Peter's restoration. The threefold denial would require threefold confession (John 21:15-17) for full healing. Deny (ἀπαρνέομαι, aparneomai) means to disown, renounce completely—the same word used for disciples who must "deny themselves" to follow Christ (Luke 9:23).

Jesus's foreknowledge wasn't merely prediction but pastoral preparation. He warned Peter so that when the rooster crowed, the disciple would remember Christ's words and repent rather than despair like Judas. The failure was certain, but not final. This reveals God's sovereign use of even our sins to humble and refine us when we belong to Christ through genuine, though faltering, faith.

Historical Context

Roosters typically crowed at predictable times during the night (Mark 13:35 mentions the "cockcrowing" as a watch period). Peter's denial occurred in the high priest's courtyard during Jesus's trial, with multiple accusers recognizing Peter's Galilean accent. The public nature of the denial before servants and guards made Peter's shame more acute, yet Jesus later restored him publicly at the lakeside breakfast.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does Jesus's foreknowledge of Peter's failure yet continuing love demonstrate the security of salvation for genuine believers?
2. What is the difference between Judas's remorse leading to suicide and Peter's repentance leading to restoration?
3. How can remembering Christ's warnings and promises help you find your way back after spiritual failure?

Interlinear Text

ὁ	δὲ	εἶπεν	λέγω	σοι	Πέτρε	οὐ	μή	φωνήσῃ
G3588	And	he said	I tell	thee	Peter	G3756	that thou	crow
	G1161	G2036	G3004	G4671	G4074		G3361	G5455
σήμερον	ἀλέκτωρ	πρὶν	ἢ	τρίς	ἀπαρνήσῃ	μή		
this day	the cock	before that	thou shalt	thrice	deny	that thou		
G4594	G220	G4250	G2228	G5151	G533	G3361		
εἰδέναι	με							
knowest	me							
G1492	G3165							

Additional Cross-References

John 13:38 (Parallel theme): Jesus answered him, Wilt thou lay down thy life for my sake? Verily, verily, I say unto thee, The cock shall not crow, till thou hast denied me thrice.

Mark 14:30 (Parallel theme): 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 (Parallel theme): Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, That this night, before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice.

Matthew 26:74 (Parallel theme): Then began he to curse and to swear, saying, I know not the man. And immediately the cock crew.

John 18:27 (References Peter): Peter then denied again: and immediately the cock crew.