

Mark 14:72

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the second time the cock crew. And Peter called to mind the word that Jesus said unto him, Before the cock crow twice, thou shalt deny me thrice. And when he thought thereon, he wept.

Analysis

Immediately after Peter's denial, 'the cock crew. And Peter called to mind the word that Jesus said unto him... And when he thought thereon, he wept' (ἐκ δευτέρου ἀλέκτωρ ἐφώνησεν. καὶ ἀνεμνήσθη ὁ Πέτρος τὸ ῥῆμα ὡς εἶπεν αὐτῷ ὁ Ἰησοῦς... καὶ ἐπιβαλὼν ἔκλαιεν). The rooster's crow triggered memory of Jesus' prediction (v. 30). Peter 'called to mind' (anemnēsthē, ἀνεμνήσθη, remembered) Jesus' word and broke down weeping (eklaien, ἔκλαιεν, imperfect tense indicating sustained weeping). This immediate repentance distinguishes Peter from Judas—both betrayed Jesus, but Peter repented while Judas despaired (Matthew 27:3-5). Peter's tears were godly sorrow producing repentance (2 Corinthians 7:10). Jesus' prediction came true precisely, demonstrating His foreknowledge. Yet prediction included restoration—'when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren' (Luke 22:32). Peter's failure wasn't final; grace triumphed.

Historical Context

Jewish law required second cock-crow (around 3 AM) before morning sacrifices. Jesus had predicted denial 'before the cock crow twice' (v. 30). The precision demonstrates Jesus' foreknowledge and sovereignty—even Peter's sin occurred within divine plan. Luke records Jesus looking at Peter after denial (Luke 22:61), a glance that pierced his heart. Peter fled weeping, unlike Judas who sought

religious leaders to return blood money before hanging himself (Matthew 27:3-5). The difference: Peter experienced godly sorrow leading to repentance; Judas experienced worldly sorrow leading to death (2 Corinthians 7:10). Peter's tears became foundational experience—he who denied became bold proclaimer (Acts 2:14-41; 4:8-12). His epistles emphasize perseverance, holiness, and God's grace sustaining believers through trials (1 Peter 1:3-9; 2 Peter 1:3-11). Personal failure deepened ministry effectiveness.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. What distinguishes Peter's repentant weeping from Judas' despairing remorse?
2. How does Peter's restoration after denial provide hope for Christians who fall into grievous sin?

Interlinear Text

καὶ ἐκ δευτέρου ἀλέκτορα φωνῆσαι καὶ ἀνεμνήσθη ὁ
And the second time the cock crew And called to mind G3588
G2532 G1537 G1208 G220 G5455 G2532 G363

Πέτρος τοῦ ῥήματος οὗ εἶπεν αὐτῷ ὁ Ἰησοῦς ὅτι
Peter the word that said unto him Jesus G3754
G4074 G3588 G4487 G3739 G2036 G846 G3588 G2424

Πρὶν ἀλέκτορα φωνῆσαι δις ἀπαρνήσῃ με τρίς· καὶ
Before the cock crew twice thou shalt deny me thrice And
G4250 G220 G5455 G1364 G533 G3165 G5151 G2532

ἐπιβαλὼν ἔκλαιεν
when he thought thereon he wept
G1911 G2799

Additional Cross-References

Mark 14:30 (References Jesus): 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.

Mark 14:68 (Parallel theme): But he denied, saying, I know not, neither understand I what thou sayest. And he went out into the porch; and the cock crew.

Ezekiel 7:16 (Parallel theme): But they that escape of them shall escape, and shall be on the mountains like doves of the valleys, all of them mourning, every one for his iniquity.