

# Matthew 26:34

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, That this night,  
before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice.

## Analysis

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**This night, before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice** (ἐν ταύτῃ τῇ νυκτὶ πρὶν ἀλέκτορα φωνῆσαι τρίς ἀπαρνήσῃ με, en tautē tē nykti prin alektora phōnēsai tris aparnēsē me)—Jesus provides devastating specificity: **this night** (within hours), **before the cock crow** (typically 3-4 AM, the third watch), **thrice** (three separate denials). The verb aparneomai means 'to deny utterly, disown, renounce.'

Jesus's precision underscores divine foreknowledge and Peter's self-deception. The cock's crow would become Peter's conscience, driving him to **weep bitterly** (v. 75). Yet Christ already knows Peter's restoration (Luke 22:32, John 21:15-19). This foreknowledge doesn't cause Peter's denial but reveals Christ's omniscience and redemptive purpose.

## Historical Context

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Roman timekeeping divided night into four watches; the third watch (midnight-3 AM) was called 'cockcrow' (Mark 13:35). Roosters crowing at dawn was common in Jerusalem despite being within city walls. Jesus's specific prediction—within hours, before sunrise, three times—made the prophecy unmistakably verifiable and unforgettable.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

## Study Questions

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1. How does Jesus's specific foreknowledge of Peter's denial demonstrate both divine omniscience and personal care?
2. What does Christ's prediction-despite-certainty-of-restoration teach about God's view of your failures?

## Interlinear Text

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ἔφη	αὐτῷ	ὁ	Ἰησοῦς	Ἀμὴν	λέγω	σοι	ὅτι	ἐν
said	unto him	G3588	Jesus	Verily	I say	unto thee	That	this
G5346	G846		G2424	G281	G3004	G4671	G3754	G1722
ταύτη	τῇ	νυκτὶ	πρὶν	ἀλέκτορα	φωνῆσαι	τρὶς		
G3778	G3588	night	before	the cock	crow	thrice		
		G5371	G4250	G220	G5455	G5151		
ἀπαρνῆση	με							
thou shalt deny	me							
G533	G3165							

## Additional Cross-References

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**John 13:38** (References Jesus): 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.

**Luke 22:34** (Parallel theme): And he said, I tell thee, Peter, the cock shall not crow this day, before that thou shalt thrice deny that thou knowest me.

**Matthew 26:75** (References Jesus): And Peter remembered the word of Jesus, which said unto him, Before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice. And he went out, and wept bitterly.

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