

Sermon Study

Denial

Matthew 26:69-75 (Matthew 26:31-35)

vision

Eastview
Christian
Church is a
fearless church
of Christ
followers whose
ridiculous love
and dangerous
witness are
irresistible.



AUTHOR'S NOTES (summary of key points for this study)

From the Inter-Varsity NIV Quiet Time Bible: On the drizzly day of October 16, 1555, Hugh Latimer and Nicholas Ridley, two influential English reformers [evangelicals], were tied to the stake and bundles of sticks were piled at their feet. The crowd strained to hear what the two men were saying. Would they recant or would they persist in dying as [falsely condemned] heretics? As the executioner pushed a torch to the wood, Latimer said, "Be of good comfort, Master Ridley, and play the man; we shall this day light such a candle, by God's grace, in England, as I trust shall never be put out." Suffering and temptation reveal the quality of our discipleship.

Gather (your group getting to know each other)

1. What promise have you made that you later failed to keep?
2. What do you think is the greatest denial of a well-recognized truth? Why do you think it is/was denied?

study notes

Go
(your group on mission)

As Easter is approaching, spend time praying for strength and courage and faith to resist denying Jesus and instead proclaiming Him as the Lord and Savior of your life.

Grow (your group growing as Christ-followers)

Discussion:

1. Read Matthew 26:30-35 and Matthew 26:69-75.
2. What do these other encounters reveal about Peter's character and personality (Read- walking on water- Matthew 14:22-31; Matthew 16:21-23; transfiguration- Matthew 17:1-7)?
3. How did his actions in those three instances line up with his declaration and denial in Matthew 26?
4. What did Peter underestimate and what might he have overestimated?
5. What emotions and motives accompanied Peter's first vow and his second vow?
6. Which character trait dominates this story of Peter's denial?
7. How did Peter's denials become progressively worse?
8. When did Peter realize what was happening? Why then? Why did he cry?
9. Read also Luke 22:60-62. How would Jesus looking at Peter after third denial have made it worse for Peter?
10. When, if ever, have you felt like you betrayed Jesus? How did you and Jesus resolve that betrayal?
11. What was your "rooster" in your life that made you realize what was happening? How did Jesus restore you?
12. Both Jesus and the disciples faced temptation in this chapter. How can Jesus' example and the disciples' failures help us withstand temptation, fear, and persecution?

Give
(your group serving each other)

Discuss how you can take the time to remind each other of your commitments to follow Jesus even in difficult times.