Luke 22:54-62

*54Then seizing him, they led him away and took him into the house of the high priest. Peter followed at a distance. 55And when some there had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and had sat down together, Peter sat down with them. 56A servant girl saw him seated there in the firelight. She looked closely at him and said, “This man was with him.”*

*57But he denied it. “Woman, I don’t know him,” he said.*

*58A little later someone else saw him and said, “You also are one of them.”*

*“Man, I am not!” Peter replied.*

*59About an hour later another asserted, “Certainly this fellow was with him, for he is a Galilean.”*

*60Peter replied, “Man, I don’t know what you’re talking about!” Just as he was speaking, the rooster crowed. 61The Lord turned and looked straight at Peter. Then Peter remembered the word the Lord had spoken to him: “Before the rooster crows today, you will disown me three times.” 62And he went outside and wept bitterly.*

Outline

1. Context: Peter’s history of bold discipleship  
   1. Peter’s promise in Luke 22:33: “*Lord I am ready to go with you to prison and to death*”
2. The escalation of Peter’s denials  
   1. Peter denies *knowing* Jesus
   2. Peter denies being a *disciple* of Jesus
   3. Peter denies his history of *joining* Jesus in Galilee
3. Why does Luke include this story of denial in his gospel account?   
   1. “*Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will save it.”* (Luke 9:23-24)
4. Call to renewed obedience  
   1. Jesus graciously reinstates Peter (John 21:15-19)
   2. Three denials are matched by the repeated question: “*Peter, do you love me*?”
   3. *“Because of Peter’s denials it seemed that true ministry was now impossible for Peter…Peter could have become a man filled with despair. Many pastors and laypersons in ministry need to visit Galilee and reread John 21. The work of the church can only go forward when we are unburdened of our destructive memories through the gracious forgiveness of God.”­* – Gary Burge