The Agony of Peter
Matt. 26:75

Introduction:
A. Who is this weeping bitterly?
   1. The same Peter that saw the transfiguration (Matt. 17:1-5).
   2. The same Peter that drew his sword to defend Jesus (vv. 51-52)
   3. The same Peter had said he would die for Jesus (vv.:33-35).
B. Why is Peter weeping bitterly?
   1. Remembered his Lord’s words (v. 34)
   2. Realized what he had done (vv. 69-74)
C. Peter made three mistakes that led him to this miserable state.

Discussion:
I. He Got Too Sure of Himself (vv. 33-35).
   A. Danger of over-confidence (Riding a bike, driving a car, operating machinery).
   B. Paul confident, but cautious (1 Cor. 9:26, 27)
   C. Paul’s warning to the Corinthians – “Flee Idolatry” (1 Cor. 10:12-14)
      2. Warns of underestimating power of influence on self and others.
II. He Got Too Far from Jesus (vv. 57-58).
   A. Too far to be clearly identified with his Lord.
      1. Half-hearted loyalty (Matt. 22:37)
      2. Half-hearted following (Rev. 3:15-17; Josh 24:15; 1 Kings 18:17,18, 21)
   B. Too far to draw strength from his Lord (cf. Jas. 4:8)
      1. Many put too much distance between self and church
      2. Many put too much distance between self and faithful.
   C. Too far to really serve His Lord.
      1. Many too far to really know His will – seldom study.
      2. Many too far to really worship and work.
   D. Too far to defend His Lord.
      1. Must defend (Phil 1:17; Jude 3).
      2. Must stand with defenders (2 Tim. 4:16).
   A. He placed himself in a position conducive to denying His Lord (cf. 1 Cor. 15:33).
      1. Avoid places, people and positions where it would hard to confess Christ.
      2. Avoid unequal yoking with unbelievers (2 Cor. 6:14, 17).
   B. He cast his influence with enemies of Christ under pressure.
      1. The pressure of Persecution
      2. The pressure of Popularity.
      3. The pressure of Peace.
      4. The pressure of Conformity.
      5. The pressure of Ease
      6. The pressure of Materialism

Conclusion:
A. If you are a Christian, Follow Jesus closely.
B. If you re not a Christian, begin following Him today.