A Recipe for Denying Christ
Luke 22:54-62

Introduction:
A. Peter strongly denied Jesus 3 times. (vv. 57-60).
   1. After being warned. (Mt. 26:34).
   2. After saying he would not. (v. 33; Mt. 26:35).
B. Peter demonstrates three-fold recipe for denying Jesus.

Discussion:
I. Peter said, “I Will Never Be Made to Stumble” (Matt. 26:33)
   A. Over-confidence is dangerous.
      1. Paul confident, yet cautious. (Cf. 1 Cor. 9:26, 27)
      2. Paul warns against over-confidence (1 Cor. 10:12).
   B. Pride goes before fall. (Prov. 16:18,19; cf. 1 Tim. 3:6)

II. “Peter Followed at a Distance” (V. 54).
   A. Too far for really serve His Lord.
      1. Many too far to really know will - seldom study.
      2. Many too far to really work.
      3. Many too far to really worship.
   B. Too far to defend His Lord.
      1. Must defend. (Phil. 1:17; Jude 3).
      2. Must stand with defenders. (2 Tim. 4:16).
   C. Too far to draw strength from His Lord. (cf. Jas. 4:8).
      1. Many put too much distance between selves and church.
      2. Many put too much distance between selves and faithful.
   D. Too far to be clearly identified with His Lord.
      1. Half-hearted loyalty. (Matt. 22:37; Phil. 3:7-8).

III. “Peter Sat among Them” (v. 55).
   A. Placed self in position conducive to denying His Lord. (cf. 1 Cor. 15:33).
      1. Avoid places, people and positions where would not wholeheartedly confess Christ.
         a. Can't avoid all contact with sinful men. (1 Cor. 5:9,10; Jno. 17:15,16).
         b. Can avoid tempting circumstances: entertainment, social, civic, political.
      2. Avoid unequal yoking with unbelievers. (2 Cor. 6:14,17).
   B. Cast 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 are not a Christian: Begin following today.