What a Difference a Few Hours Can Make?
Luke 22:31-34; 54-62

Introduction:
A. It took Peter only a few hours to go from “I will never” to I have.
B. Have known many to follow the same route.
C. Peter made three tragic mistakes:

Discussion:
I. He Got Too Far from the Lord (v. 54)
A. He had been very close.
   1. At the transfiguration (Matt. 17:1-5)
   2. In Gethsemane (Mark 14:32-33).
   3. Defended him with sword (John 18:10)
B. Now he was just a little too far.
   1. Too far to really serve or help.
   2. Too far to defend.
   3. Too far to be clearly identified.
C. We need stay close to the Lord
   1. By complete submission to His will. (Jas. 4:7-10).
   2. By keeping heart close to Him (Matt. 15:8).
   3. By feeding regularly on His word (Acts 17:11; 2 Tim. 4:1-4; Rom. 10:17).
   4. By constant communion with Him in worship (Acts 2:42; 1 Thess. 5:17)
   5. By staying close to His people.
      a. Worshiping with them (Heb. 10:25; Acts 20:7).
      b. Associating with them (Acts 2:46).

II. He Got Too Close to the Lord’s Enemies (v. 55).
A. It made it easier to deny than to confess (vv. 56-60).
B. The danger of evil companionship – moral and religious (1 Cor. 15:33).
   1. Danger in “running with wrong crowd” in religion as well a morals (context of verse)
   2. Not just personal companionship – reading and viewing material.
   3. Can produce a desire to conform or a fear of non-conformity.
C. Cannot avoid all association with sinners (cf. 1 Cor. 5:9,10)
   1. Keep guard up when must associate.
   2. Do not allow yourself to be “unequally yoked” (2 Cor. 6:14, 17).

III. He Got Too Confident in Himself (vv. 33; Matt. 26:33).
A. Overestimated own strength and underestimated strength of temptation.
B. The danger of over-confidence.
   1. Paul was confident, but cautious (1 Cor. 9:26, 27).
   2. Paul warns against over-confidence (1 Cor. 10:12 and context).
C. Pride goes before the fall (Prov. 16:18, 19; cf. 1 Tim. 3:6).

Conclusion:
A. Put your confidence in the Lord, not yourself.
B. Keep yourself close to the Lord at all times.
C. Keep yourself from evil associations – moral and religious.