

DANGER OF FOLLOWING AFAR OFF

Lk 22:54-62

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Effectiveness many times is proportionate to distance
 - 1. Some want distance between them and God
 - 2. If going on a guided tour of a place we have never been before we stay with our guide to keep from getting lost and stay near to hear what the guide is saying
- B. God is with those who are with him 2Jhn 9
- C. Peter's early life demonstrates danger of following afar off

DISCUSSION:

I. PETER'S CONFESSION TO JESUS

- A. At Caesarea Philippi Matt 16:13-16
- B. At the last supper
 - 1. Though all offended, I will never Mk 14:29; Matt 26:33
 - 2. Ready for prison, death Lk 22:33
 - 3. Lay down life for Jesus Jhn 13:37
- C. Seriousness of this confession Matt 7:21; Lk 6:46

II. JESUS PREDICTS PETER'S FALL

- A. All will be offended Mk 14:27
- B. Satan hath desired thee Lk 22:31
- C. I have prayed for thee Lk 22:32

III. PETER'S DILEMMA

- A. Between two forces Jesus - Satan
 - 1. Conscience says Jesus
 - 2. Fear says Satan; deny Jesus
- B. The decision - follow but from afar
 - 1. Partial service is no service
 - 2. We must give all or nothing Matt 22:37

IV. RESULTS OF PETER'S DECISION

- A. He followed afar off
 - 1. How far he followed behind only God knows
 - 2. Distance is measured by attitude not necessarily feet
- B. Lost the zeal of his confession
 - 1. Where is that confession now Matt 16:16
 - 2. Where is that vow of loyalty Jhn 13:37
- C. With the wrong crowd Lk 22:55
 - 1. Associating with the enemy
 - 2. Effect of companionship 1Cor 15:33
 - 3. Enemy can be one's own family
- D. Peter became cold and indifferent Jhn 18:17 (Relate story of preacher visiting wayward brother and taking a coal of fire from the fireplace and letting it grow cold)
- E. Lies swears and curses Mk 14:71

V. PETER'S REDEMPTION

- A. When thou art converted Lk 22:32
 - 1. Jesus recognized that unless we are willing to live our confession we are not converted
 - 2. We should be strong enough to strengthen our brethren
- B. Peter was sorry and repented Matt 26:75; Lk 22:62
 - 1. One can be sorry and not repent like Judas
 - 2. Godly sorrow worketh repentance 2Cor 7:10
- C. Peter demonstrated later that he was willing to live his confession
 - 1. He was first to go in at the tomb Jhn 20:4-8
 - 2. He preached the gospel to those who have crucified Jesus in Acts 2
 - 3. After being put in prison he still stood for the Lord Acts 5:18,25

CONCLUSION:

- A. Is our attitude one of seeing how far off we can follow Jesus or seeing how close we can stay to the Lord
- B. Peter is a good example of both what can happen when we follow afar off and when we follow closely to the Lord
- C. Which example of Peter's are we following?
 - 1. If we are following afar off we will become guilty of the same sin as Peter and stand condemned before the Lord.
 - 2. If we will follow his example later in life and be willing to live our confession before men we can be approved of God