

# Peter's Denials and Restoration

Sermon 85 in the Matthew Series

## Matthew 26:58, 69-75

### Introduction -- Luke 22:31-34

v. 32 -- The Greek word translated – “**returned**” or sometimes -- converted – or turned again (ESV) all fit the semantic range of this broad Greek word.

“but I have prayed [especially] for you [Peter], that your faith [and confidence in Me] may not fail; and you, once you have turned back again [to Me], strengthen *and* support your brothers [in the faith].” AMB

**1 Peter 2:25** -- For you were like sheep going astray, **but have now returned** to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

### I. Exposition of the Passage Matthew 26:58, 69-75

A, He Followed Him... – v. 58 (thoughts adapted from Matthew Henry)

1. but at a distance.
2. but he went in and then sat with the servants.
3. But he only went to see what would happen.

B. The Denials 69-75

### II. Observations on the Denials by Peter

1. Peter made the best confession of Christ and the worst confession of Christ.
2. That Peter would deny the Lord was so certain, that if it had not happened, it would be proof that Jesus Christ is not the Son of God.
3. Peter was absolutely responsible for his sin.
4. God was absolutely sovereign in the denials of Peter.
5. Nothing happens outside the decreed will of God.

Not everything that happens, is the **declared** will of God.  
Peter was not commanded or coerced to deny Christ.

Conversely, in no way did Peter defeat God by His sin.  
Christ did more than predict something that was going to happen. **Matt. 26:56 –& 26:31, 32**

### III. Peter's Restoration – John 21:15-19

A. Parallels between this account and the denial, are not “coincidental” but intended to remind Peter of that fateful night.

1. There was a charcoal fire.
2. There were three confessions demanded from Peter.
3. Even the name used – Simon, son of Jonah.

#### B. The Three Affirmations

William Hendricksen has an excellent appendix on the two Greek words used here for love in his John commentary. There is often too much perceived difference between the words *phileo* and *agapao*.

**1. Do you love me -- more than these?**

*Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.*

Feed My lambs

**2. Then Jesus said a second time, “Simon, son of Jonah, do *YOU* love me.”**

*Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.*

Tend (shepherdize) my sheep.

**3. Simon, son of Jonah, do you love me?**

*Lord you know all things. You know that I love you.*

Feed my sheep.

Final Application: