

# Everyday FAITH Family Page

New Testament 4

## Law/Gospel

I deny Jesus when I fail to acknowledge Him and live as if I do not know Him. **Even when I deny Him, Jesus will never turn His back on me, never refuse me, and never stop loving me. Instead, He draws me back, forgives me, and treats me as if I had never denied Him.**

## Bible Words

If we are faithless, [Jesus] remains faithful—for He cannot deny Himself. 2 Timothy 2:13

## The Big Picture

One reason why Peter was recognized in the courtyard during Jesus' trial was his dialect. Peter was not from Jerusalem, and he spoke differently from those who were. His Galilean accent set him apart from others waiting at the fire.

Peter wasn't the only visitor that week, however. Thousands of people had come to Jerusalem that week to commemorate the Passover. Little did these crowds know that this Passover would be special. The Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world, was about to be sacrificed for all sinners. Thousands would be in the city for this world-altering moment.

## Peter Denies Jesus

Mark 14:26–72

It is Holy Thursday (also called Maundy Thursday). Having instituted the Lord's Supper, Jesus leads His disciples to the Mount of Olives, a familiar place to them. There, Peter refuses to believe what Jesus predicts: that he, along with the rest of the apostolic band, will desert and deny their Master. A few hours later, however, after Jesus is arrested and while He's being tried in the court of the Jews, Peter denies his Lord three times. Luke adds a detail skipped by the other evangelists, that at the third denial, "the Lord turned and looked at Peter" (22:61), calling to mind the prediction that Peter had fulfilled by his infidelity.

Our own denials of Jesus may not be as dramatic, but they are just as real. Whether by speaking or by keeping silent when we ought to speak up, we have all chosen love of self over love of Savior. We have denied our Lord and His gifts for the sake of reputation or some other selfish gain. And the rooster's crow has called us all to repentance.

Jesus, however, never denies us. He forgives Peter's threefold denial and welcomes Him back with His threefold question: "Simon, son of John, do you love Me?" (John 21:15–17). Even if we are faithless, He remains faithful. He cannot deny us because we are part of Him, baptized members of His Body.

## From the Catechism

*The Sixth Petition*

And lead us not into temptation.

*What does this mean?* God tempts no one. We pray in this petition that God would guard and keep us so that the devil, the world, and our sinful nature may not deceive us or mislead us into false belief, despair, and other great shame and vice. Although we are attacked by these things, we pray that we may finally overcome them and win the victory.

## Prayer

*Lord, Even when we are faithless, You are faithful. Forgive us when we fail. Thank You for never denying us. In Your name we pray. Amen.*

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