I Know Not The Man
Mt. 26:75

• And Peter remembered the word of Jesus, which said unto him, Before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice. And he went out, and wept bitterly
Then saith Jesus unto them, All ye shall be offended because of me this night: for it is written, I will smite the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock shall be scattered abroad.
Mt. 26:33-35

• Peter answered and said unto him, Though all men shall be offended because of thee, yet will I never be offended. Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, That this night, before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice.
• Peter said unto him, Though I should die with thee, yet will I not deny thee. Likewise also said all the disciples.
1. Peter’s aggression
Mt. 26:51

• And, behold, one of them which were with Jesus stretched out his hand, and drew his sword, and struck a servant of the high priest's, and smote off his ear.
Jn. 18:10

- Then Simon Peter having a sword drew it, and smote the high priest's servant, and cut off his right ear. The servant's name was Malchus.
• Peter had good intentions
• He was sincere in what he did
2. Peter followed

- He followed Christ afar off – not close enough to be identified with Jesus – not near enough to be of any benefit to Jesus
• Why did Peter go against his earlier show of strong loyalty to Jesus?
• Why did he deny what he surely knew to be true?
• Why did he try to emphasize his denial with cursing and swearing?
• Why did he go against his intentions that he had stated earlier?
3. Pride

- He was filled with **sinful** pride
- Mt. 26:33
- “Peter answered and said unto him, Though all men shall be offended because of thee, yet will I never be offended”
• He was too sure of himself
• He had been blinded by the power of temptation
• Note the warning Peter gave later-
1 Pet. 5:8

- Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:
1 Cor. 10:12

• Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.
4. **Wrong place and people**

- He put himself in the wrong place with the wrong people
- Followed “afar off”
Mt. 26:58

• But Peter followed him afar off unto the high priest's palace, and went in, and sat with the servants, to see the end.
• In this place he simply appeared to be an onlooker – one that opposed Jesus
And when they had kindled a fire in the midst of the hall, and were set down together, Peter sat down among them.
• He warmed himself by the enemies fire!
• Those that did not have any love for the Lord had assembled to evil and “Peter sat down among them”
• When asked point blank about Jesus – he denied Him and stood with the crowd
• He was seeking to please the wrong people
• Social pressure
• Peer pressure
• Pressure of the crowd
• What ever you call it, it caused Peter to crumble under the strain
• In the garden he expressed his intention to die with Jesus – but this was said in the presence of the brethren – with them he found boldness but when separated from them he folded
Exodus 23:2

- Thou shalt not follow a multitude to do evil; neither shalt thou speak in a cause to decline after many to wrest judgment:
Mt. 6:13

- “And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil...”

- Peter had placed himself where sin had every opportunity
5. Apostasy can strike

• Christians today face the same problems Peter faced

• We can be so proud that we think, “It can never happen to me” – “I’ll never forsake God”
• “We dare not trifle with temptation and sin”
• Social drinking
• Mixed swimming
• Immodest dress
• Vulgar language
1 Cor. 15:33 (NKJ)

• Do not be deceived: “Evil company corrupts good habits.”
6. He was **restored**

- He could have become stubborn and hardened his heart – many do when they fall into sin
- He obviously repented
- He recovered
- He rejoined the disciples
Acts 2:36

Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ.