

A silhouette of a rooster stands on a dark, rounded hill against a dramatic sunset sky. The sun is a bright, glowing orb in the upper center, partially obscured by soft, dark clouds. The sky transitions from a pale yellow near the horizon to a deep blue at the top. The rooster is positioned on the left side of the frame, facing right.

“Pride: The Anatomy of Peter’s Denial”

Mark 14:66-72

Proposition

Pride breeds self-sufficiency and confidence in one's own strength. Believers must guard against this deceptive thinking so that they do not deny the Lord in their time of testing.

I. The Fruit of Self-Sufficiency in Denying Our Lord (66–71)

- Peter's pride and self-confidence placed him in a position of spiritual weakness.
- His self-sufficiency produced a progressive denial of the Lord.

A. Denial 1 – A Subtle but Sovereign Exposing

- A servant girl identifies Peter as one who was with Jesus.
- Peter denies knowing or understanding what she is talking about.
- God uses even a seemingly insignificant person to expose Peter's pride.

B. Denial 2 – The Agreed Assertion

- The servant girl again accuses Peter before the bystanders.
- Others begin to join in identifying him with Jesus.
- Peter again denies the Lord.

C. Denial 3 – A Cursing Confirmation

- Bystanders insist Peter must be one of Jesus' followers.
- Peter begins to curse and swear that he does not know Jesus.
- This denial reaches its deepest and most intense expression.

Summary – The Fruit of Self-Sufficiency

- Peter's pride and reliance on his own strength led him step-by-step into denial.
- Self-confidence apart from dependence on the Lord produces spiritual collapse.

II. The Prophetic Fulfillment of Our Lord's Warning Against Pride (72a)

- Immediately, a rooster crowed a second time.
- Peter remembered Jesus' words: "Before a rooster crows twice, you will deny Me three times."
- Jesus' warning was fulfilled exactly as He had said.
- Peter's confidence in himself was shattered as he remembered the Lord's words.

III. Pride's Aftermath and Repentance (72b)

- Peter remembered the Lord's words and began to weep.
- His weeping was the bitter sorrow of repentance.
- Peter's denial exposed the depth of his pride.
- His brokenness and sorrow reveal the beginning of true repentance.

Implication 1 – Learn from Our Sin

- Believers must respond to sin with conviction and repentance.
- Sin must be confessed and dealt with honestly before God.

Implication 2 – See Pride as an Enemy

- Pride produces self-belief, self-sufficiency, and self-confidence.
- Humility and dependence on God are necessary to stand in times of testing.



Closing Exhortation

- Pride leads us to deny the Lord.
- Humility and dependence on Christ lead to victory in times of testing.