

THE SERVANT GIRLS

In Matthew 26, at the last supper with His disciples, Jesus told them they would all desert Him. Peter, in his normal confidence, insisted that he would never desert Him, even if he had to die. Later that night, Jesus was arrested in the Garden of Gethsemane and brought before the Council of the religious leaders. As Peter followed from a distance, this is where we meet the servant girls:

⁶⁹ Meanwhile, Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. A servant girl came over and said to him, “You were one of those with Jesus the Galilean.” ⁷⁰ But Peter denied it in front of everyone. “I don’t know what you’re talking about,” he said. ⁷¹ Later, out by the gate, another servant girl noticed him and said to those standing around, “This man was with Jesus of Nazareth.” ⁷² Again Peter denied it, this time with an oath. “I don’t even know the man,” he said. ⁷³ A little later some of the other bystanders came over to Peter and said, “You must be one of them; we can tell by your Galilean accent.” ⁷⁴ Peter swore, “A curse on me if I’m lying – I don’t know the man!” And immediately the rooster crowed. ⁷⁵ Suddenly, Jesus’ words flashed through Peter’s mind: “Before the rooster crows, you will deny three times that you even know me.” And he went away, weeping bitterly.

-Matthew 26:69-75

APPLICATION

Undoubtedly, Peter and the other disciples were sincere in their loyalty to Jesus. But it was easy to stand resolute while standing with Jesus and the other disciples. However, when standing alone, Peter’s bold confidence waned quickly. Unfortunately, all it took was for a few lowly servant girls to draw attention to Peter, and without thinking, he had done exactly what Jesus told him he would do and what he vowed never to do just a few hours earlier. He denied His teacher three times. Because of his

fear, Peter missed an opportunity to declare his faith before man and allow his witness to influence the crowd around him. Was there a chance that there were other Christ followers hiding in the crowd that night as well?

It can happen just that quickly and just that effortlessly. When we fail to identify ourselves as followers of Christ we miss opportunities to stand up for Christ. Standing up for Christ could mean risking persecution in extreme cases. But it more likely just means choosing integrity in our choices or more thoughtful consideration in how we represent ourselves and opinions on social media and such. Do people know you represent Christ? Resolve to stand for Christ no matter what.

DISCUSSION/CONTEMPLATION

- What opportunities do you have to stand up for Christ from day to day?

- Is there a time when you represented Christ despite some discomfort?

- Is there a time when you denied Him by not representing Him?

D6-CUSSION

How can we represent Christ in our words, actions, and choices?

- What stands out to you the most?
- What questions do you have?
- What is an application for your life?

PRAYERS & PRAISE