

Munfordville Church of Christ

No 1186

October 22, 2017

John 13:37, *“Peter said unto him, Lord, why cannot I follow thee now? I will lay down my life for thy sake.”*

Mark 14:54, *“And Peter followed him afar off, even into the palace of the high priest: and he sat with the servants, and warmed himself at the fire.”*

In John 13 Peter asked Jesus why he could not follow Jesus now. He even went as far to say that he would lay down his life for Jesus.

The opportunity to follow Jesus would soon come, and it did come shortly as Jesus was being led away to His trial leading up to His crucifixion. Peter now had what he earlier requested from Jesus. He wanted to follow Jesus earlier, but when the opportunity came, he followed afar off.

At this point in time Peter was wanting to keep his distance from Jesus. Peter was following afar off physically, but this led to Peter's heart and actions being further from following Jesus. He not only followed afar off, but he cursed and swore and denied that he even

knew Jesus. This was very far from what Peter earlier asked when he wanted to know why he couldn't follow Jesus. At that time he even said he would die for Jesus. Now that Jesus was about to die for Peter and all mankind, Peter followed afar off and even denied knowing Jesus.

Jesus had told Peter that before the cock crows, he would deny Jesus three times. When Peter denied Jesus the third time, there was no delay in the cock's crowing. We are told in Luke 22:60, *“And Peter said, Man, I know not what thou sayest. And immediately, while he yet spake, the cock crew.”* While the words of denial were still in the mouth of Peter, the cock crowed as Jesus had told Peter it would.

In what has to be one of the saddest verses of the Bible, we are told in the next verse that the LORD turned and looked upon Peter. Luke 22:61, *“And the Lord turned, and looked upon Peter. And Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said unto him, Before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice.”* The next verse says that Peter went out and wept bitterly.

When we follow Jesus afar off the distance between us and Jesus will become even greater. When we follow afar off, we tend to lose sight of the one we are following. It's easier to get off the path we should be on because we cannot easily see the one we should be closely following.

We start following afar off when we become lukewarm and let our service to the LORD suffer. It may begin with less attendance, less praying, less reading the Bible, or not giving as we should. Does it bother us when we miss services? Do we go for days without prayer to the LORD or reading the Bible? If so, we probably are following afar off. It's easy to let the distance between us and the LORD become greater and greater until we totally lose sight of Him. When we totally lose sight of the LORD, we will lose our souls.

—Marty Edwards❖

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Sunday 9 AM & 6 PM — Wednesday 6 PM

News

—Continue to remember **Jewell Watkins, Jean Coffey, Alice Thrasher, Steve Seaton. Brad Terry** has become much worse with the cancer he has.

—Our yearly chili supper and evening worship will be at the home of **Mitch & Sandy Duncan** next Sunday evening, October 29 at 5:00 p.m. The following Sunday, November 5, our evening services will return to 4:00 p.m. for the duration of Standard Time.

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James 4:8, “*Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you.*”

In the previous article we talked about how Peter was following afar off. When you see you are following afar off, how can you draw closer? You might be in a vehicle and trying to follow someone because you don’t know the way. If you see you are falling behind and following afar off, you need to put forth the effort to catch up. You might need to speed up and the person ahead of you slow down. It makes it much easier to catch up when both parties do something to close the gap.

If we are following the LORD afar off, He has told us He will put forth the effort to close the gap when we do. We are to draw nigh to God and He will draw nigh to us. This is guaranteed to happen. We can cause the LORD to draw nigh to us simply by drawing nigh to Him.

How do we draw nigh to the LORD? It starts by repenting of sins we are engaged in and asking for the forgiveness of those sins. We then
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Sunday, October 15, 2017		
Classes	22	I Timothy 1:1-6
Preaching	28	Hebrews 10:1-30
Contribution	\$887.00	
Evening	10	Revelation 22:7-21
Wednesday, October 18, 2017		
Classes	25	Amos 8:1-14

Bible Quiz

Jesus said He was the bright and morning what?

Last Week’s Answer— The throne of God
and of the Lamb (Revelation 22:1)

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should do those things that make us closer to the LORD— attend, pray, and study more. Do more for the LORD every day. When we do those things, we will draw nigh to the LORD and we can be sure He will draw nigh to us.

—Marty Edwards❖

—God’s Plan of Salvation—

1. Hear the Gospel (Romans 10:14)
2. Believe on the Lord and His Word (Mark 16:16; John 8:24)
3. Repent of your sins (Luke 13:3,5; Acts 17:30)
4. Confess Christ (Matthew 10:32,33; Luke 12:8; Romans 10:9)
5. Be baptized (immersed in water) for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38; Mark 16:16; Galatians 3:27; I Peter 3:21)
6. Live a faithful, dedicated life (Revelation 2:10; II Peter 1:5-10)