

# Sounds Of The Passion: Rooster Crowing

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## **Matthew 26:31-35 (CEB)**

*Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Tonight you will all fall away because of me. This is because it is written, I will hit the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will go off in all directions. But after I'm raised up, I'll go before you to Galilee." Peter replied, "If everyone else stumbles because of you, I'll never stumble." Jesus said to him, "I assure you that, before the rooster crows tonight, you will deny me three times." Peter said, "Even if I must die alongside you, I won't deny you." All the disciples said the same thing.*

### **Notes**

- Peter was one of Jesus' most outspoken disciples, but after Christ's arrest, he remained at a "safe distance" while following Jesus.
- When confronted about his association with Jesus, Peter denied knowing him, fulfilling Jesus' prediction.
- The sound of the rooster represented an "alarm clock" that showed Peter his failings and the desperate need for change.
- After Jesus' Resurrection, Jesus reunites with Peter and asks him three times, "Do you love me?" In restoring Peter, Jesus equips him to lay the foundation for the spread of the Gospel throughout the world.

### **Questions**

1. We often have amazing intentions, but struggle with follow through. What alarm clocks do you believe God is sounding now in our own spiritual lives?
2. Do you think this present season and its unique challenges represent an alarm clock for how we do ministry and serve as the Church? Why or why not?
3. What are some specific ways you believe God is calling us away from our "safe distance" and inviting us into new ways to love our neighbor, serve one another, and be the Church?
4. What is one thing you can do this week to step into fresh, new ways to serve God and others?