



 In 2007, Lifeway Research concluded, 70% of students will lose their faith in college, 35% will eventually return.

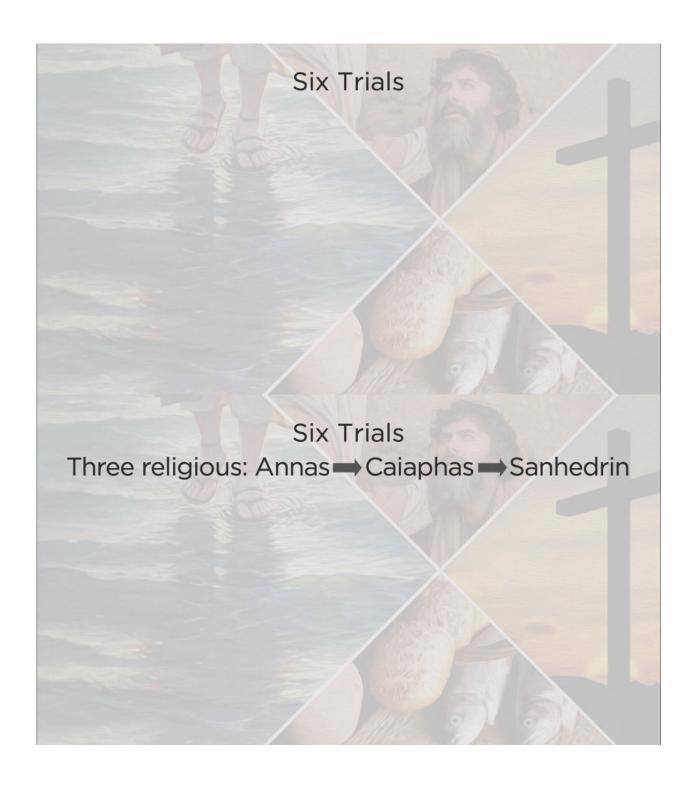
 In 2009, Pew Research announced that young Americans are leaving religion 5-6 times the historic rate.  In 2011, Barna Group confirmed that 59% of young people with a Christian background "dropped out of attending church after going regularly."

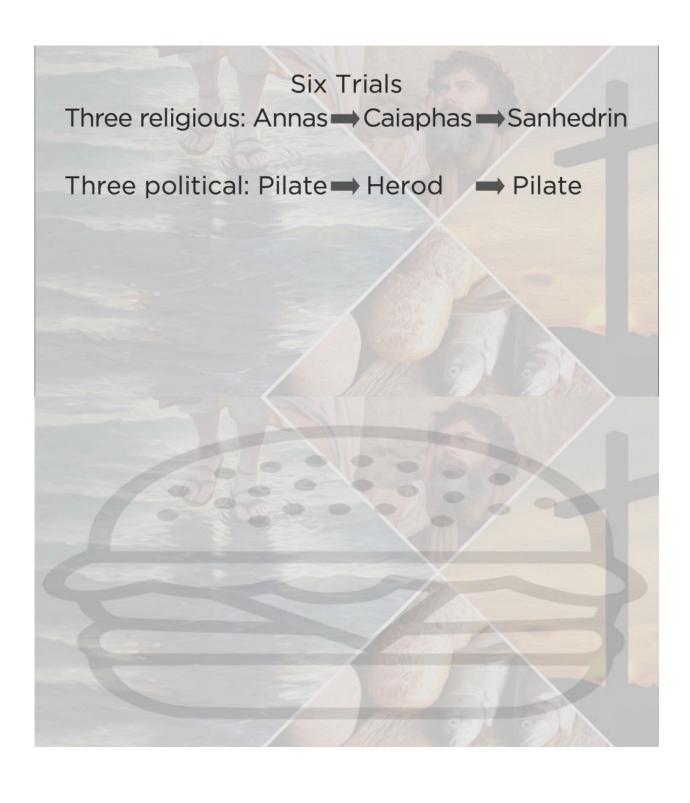
Four Types of Hearers (Mark 4)		
defensive hearer	hard soil	Satan takes away the Word
discouraged hearer	shallow soil	receives it with joy falls away
distracted hearer	thorny soil	choked by cares, lies, and desires
dynamic hearer	good soil	hears receives and bears fruit

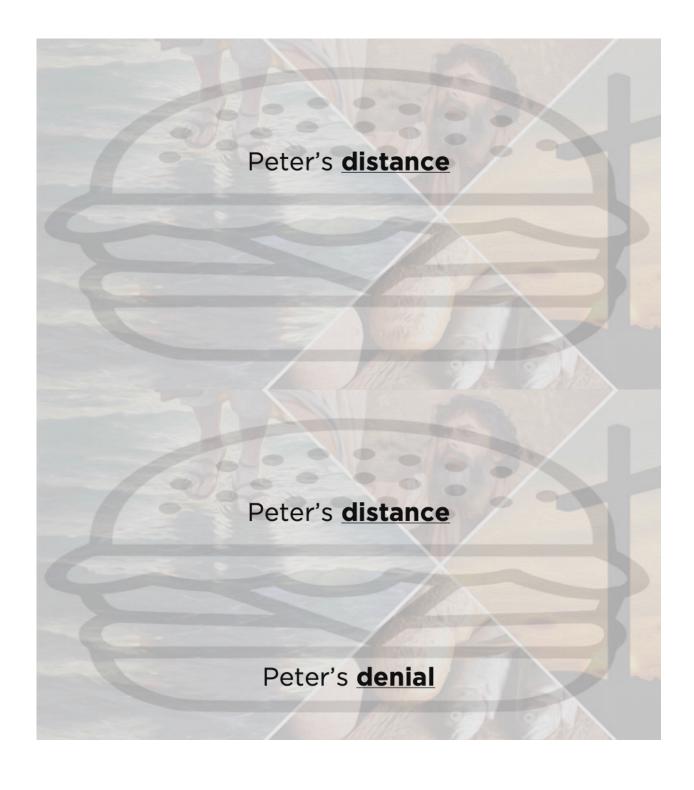
"Truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me." (18) "Truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me." (18) "And Jesus said to them, 'You will all fall away." (27)

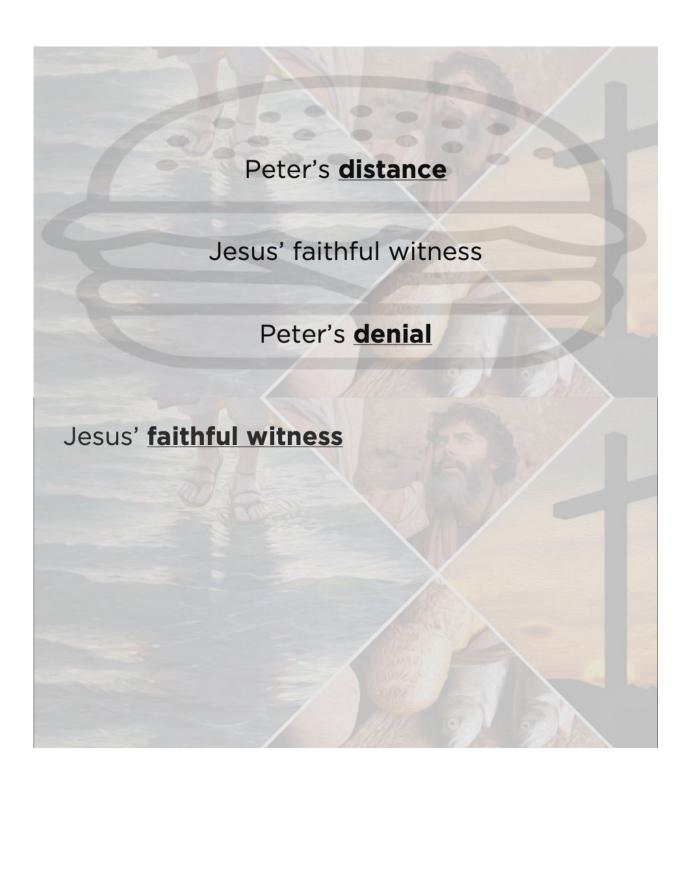
- "Truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me." (18)
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- "Even though they all fall away, I will not." (29)

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- "Even though they all fall away, I will not." (29)
- "Before the rooster crows twice, you will deny me three times." (30)











Why "witness"?

"were seeking testimony against Jesus" (55)

# martyria

"many bore false witness against him" (56)

pseudomartyrein

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"what further witnesses do we need?" (63)

martys

"Now the chief priests and the whole council were seeking testimony against Jesus to put him to death, but they found none."

Mark 14:55

• fabrication (56-59) -

• fabrication (56-59) -"For many bore false witness against him, but their testimony did not agree." (56) • intimidation (60-62) -

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"What is it that these men testify against you?" (60)

• intimidation (60-62) -

"What is it that these men testify against you?" (60)

"He remained silent." (61)

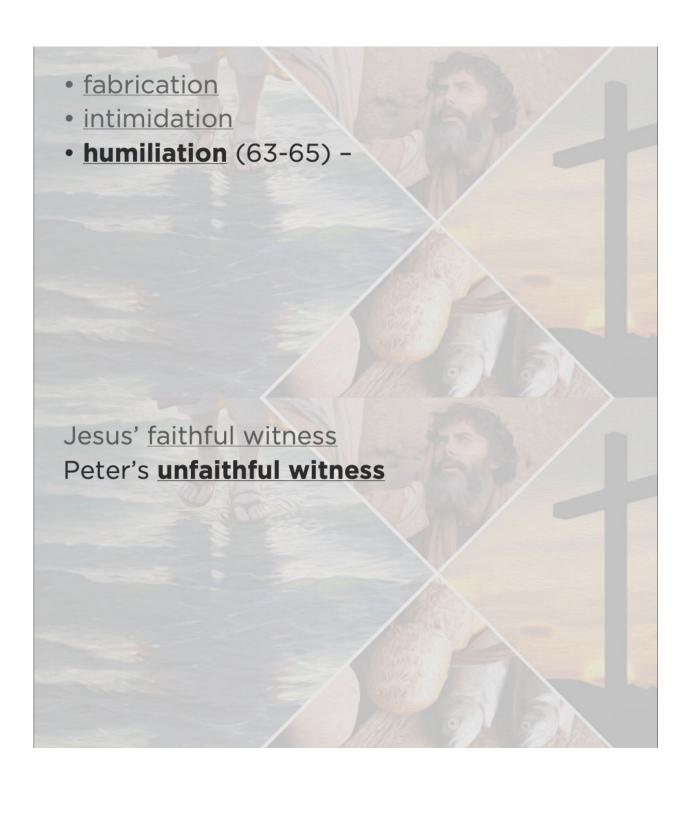
• intimidation (60-62) -

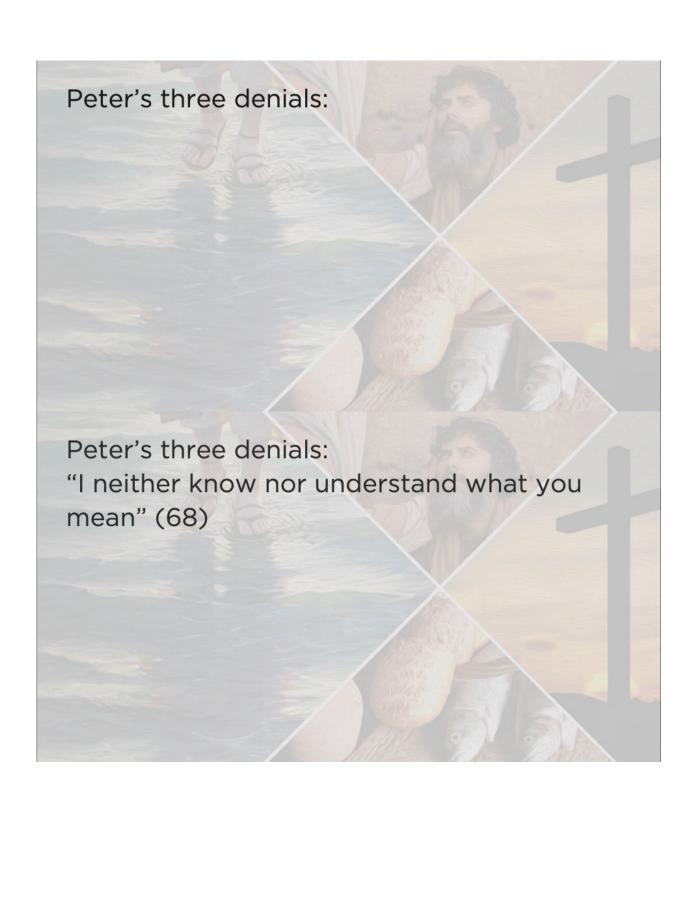
"Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?" (61)

• intimidation (60-62) -

"Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?" (61)

"And Jesus said, 'I am, and you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power, and coming with the clouds of heaven." (62)





Peter's three denials:

"I neither know nor understand what you mean" (68)

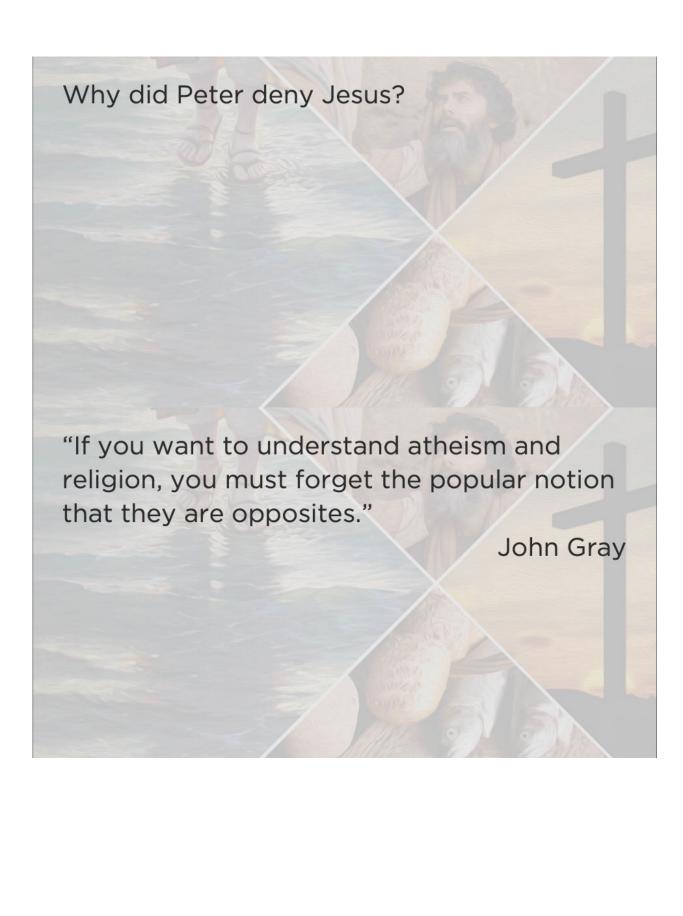
"But again he denied it" (70)

Peter's three denials:

"I neither know nor understand what you mean" (68)

"But again he denied it" (70)

"But he began to invoke a curse on himself and to swear, 'I do not know this man of whom you speak." (71)



"Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat, but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers."

Luke 22:31-32

"For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin."

Hebrews 4:15

"Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them."

Hebrews 7:25

"Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words."

Romans 8:26

"They prayed for God to work in my life, which he did through them. They allowed me into their home and around their children.

"They offered to pray for me (which I always accepted) without trying to reconvert me. They loved and accepted me while remaining true to their convictions. In short, they showed me a different kind of Christian."

Lauren

"I prayed. I considered the impact regaining faith would have on my career and my relationships, and I prayed anyway. I prayed because I needed a miracle.

"I prayed because I realized my anger was not with God. I prayed because I learned that I could follow Jesus differently than I had been taught. "I prayed because I realized my anger was not with God. I prayed because I learned that I could follow Jesus differently than I had been taught.

"I prayed, and God answered. My reconversion was the result of a traumatic event, but regaining faith does not need to be wrought with trauma or despair. It does, however, require love.

"In his letter to the church at Corinth, Paul wrote, 'And now these three remain: faith, hope, and love. But the greatest of these is love' (1 Cor. 13:13).

"If there is someone in your life who has lost their faith, I encourage you to have hope and just love them. It was trauma that brought me to my knees, but it was love that brought me back to God."

Lauren

