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**Before the Rooster Crows...**  
By Rick Artis

Scripture:

John 13:36-38  
John 18:15-18, 25-27

36 Simon Peter asked him, "Lord, where are you going?"  
Jesus replied, "Where I am going, you cannot follow now, but you will follow later."

37 Peter asked, "Lord, why can't I follow you now? I will lay down my life for you."

38 Then Jesus answered, "Will you really lay down your life for me? I tell you the truth, before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times!

15 Simon Peter and another disciple were following Jesus. Because this disciple was known to the high priest, he went with Jesus into the high priest's courtyard, 16 but Peter had to wait outside at the door. The other disciple, who was known to the high priest, came back, spoke to the girl on duty there and brought Peter in.

17 "You are not one of his disciples, are you?" the girl at the door asked Peter.  
He replied, "I am not."

18 It was cold, and the servants and officials stood around a fire they had made to keep warm. Peter also was standing with them, warming himself.

25 As Simon Peter stood warming himself, he was asked, "You are not one of his disciples, are you?"  
He denied it, saying, "I am not."

26 One of the high priest's servants, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, challenged him, "Didn't I see you with him in the olive grove?" 27 Again Peter denied it, and at that moment a rooster began to crow.

Theme:

Denying Christ in today's world is often more subtle than Peter's denial.

Applications:

Denial of faith in Christ within sphere of influence

Cast:

1 lead male

Assorted others to play co-workers

Could be one per segment or a few can rotate in and out of scenes

Setting:

Everyday office. Barry is confronted by everyday situations where he can either take a stand for Christ or give in to the subtle worldly pressures of his co-workers. The scene has a variety of people coming by to chat about various things. We see Barry being tempted, his internal struggle as the co-worker is frozen, and then his responses. **Conflict lines in purple**. After every three denials we hear a rooster crow. Each time the crowing gets louder.

Time:

Friday, office hours

Characters:

Barry- conflicted Christian office worker

Several co-workers (Can double up if needed, except for Darla)

Mark- uniformed theologian

Stella- flirtatious tramp

Dave- unscrupulous finance guy

Tom- instigator

Jim- alcoholic

Stan- shyster

Darla- former girlfriend

Props:

Office desk, chair, phone etc.

Performance time:

Mark- Can you settle an argument for us? Jim seems to think that Jesus and Mary Magdalene were married and had children. Is that true?

Barry- **First the 'Last Temptation' and then 'The Da Vinci Code'**. Why do these people insist on getting their theology from the movies?

How would I know that?

Mark- Oh, I thought someone said you were a church-goer and you might have a Bible in your desk.

Barry- **Who would say that? Nobody here knows I go to church.**

*(perturbed)* Why would I have a Bible in my desk? I haven't been to church in years.

Mark- Ok, ok, sorry I asked.

*(Mark exits. Stella enters.)*

Stella- *(Very flirtatious)* You know Barry, you used to be a lot friendlier to me. *(Snuggles against him. 'Whispers' in his ear)* What's wrong, Bear, Bear? Don't you like me any more?

Barry- **Oh man, is that nice? But, oh man, oh man. Could I get in trouble here? I mean Stella's reputation and a man-eater is legendary. You better head for the hills, Barry. You better run for your life.**

You know I like you, Stella... I like you a lot.

Stella- Then why don't you come by my office later for a quick *meeting*? Just you and me. It'll be fun.

Barry- Uh...sure. Maybe later this afternoon. After I get the quarterly report done.

Stella- I'll be waiting for you. Don't make me wait too long.

*(Stella exits. Dave enters with a stack of spreadsheets.)*

Dave- Hey Barry, I need your help.

Barry- What's up, Dave?

Dave- I can't get the Asian numbers to work out.

Barry- Really? What's the problem?

Dave- Something just doesn't add up. All the Asian divisions should be profitable. But they're not. If we can just make a small *adjustment* to the revenue figures, the quarterly report will look much better. And next quarter should be much stronger and we can adjust it back.

Barry- *Dave just asked me to falsify the quarterly report. No two reports, this quarter's and next. I've never submitted a single false report to management, let alone two. This could be very bad... But who's going to know. No one reads those stupid reports, anyway.*

Ok, I'll give you a hand. As long as you promise that we can fix the data in next quarter's report.

Dave- Great, thanks. See here's where the problem seems to be. I'll check with you later.

*(Dave exits. Rooster crows. Tom enters.)*

(Continues...)