

Wednesday Evening Bible Study

June 3, 2020

The Denial of Peter

Text – Luke 22:31 – 35; 54 - 62

Introduction

Last week we studied the Last Supper and the contention among the disciples regarding which of them would be the greatest. This week we will examine the denial of Peter as was prophesied by the Lord at the Last Supper, and fulfilled by Peter later on that night (or possibly very early the next morning). We will not leave Peter there, however. We will see how the Lord Jesus took Peter from his failure and fall, and will bring him to the place where he becomes a preacher with great power.

Chronological Order of Events from the Last Supper through the Crucifixion:

1. The Last Supper (Matthew 26:26 – 29; Mark 14:22 – 25; Luke 22:14 – 23)
2. Contention As To Who Is Greatest (Luke 22:24 – 30)
3. Jesus Washes the Disciples Feet (John 13:1 – 17)
4. Judas is Identified as the Betrayer (Matthew 26:20 – 25; Mark 14:17 – 21; John 13:18 – 35)
5. They Sing a Hymn and Leave the Upper Room (Matthew 26:30; Mark 14:26; John 14:31)
6. **The Disciples and Peter's Denial Foretold (Matthew 26:31 – 35; Mark 14:27 – 31; Luke 22:31 – 38; John 13:36 - 38)**
7. Jesus Comforts the Disciples and Speaks of the Holy Spirit (John 14:1 – 30)
8. Farewell Discourse (John 15:1 – 16:33)
 - a. The True Vine
 - b. Warning of Persecution
 - c. Comfort for the Disciples
 - d. The Coming of the Comforter
9. The Real Lord's Prayer (John 17)
10. The Garden of Gethsemane (Matthew 26:36 – 46; Mark 14:32 – 42; Luke 22:39 – 46; John 18:1)
11. Jesus Arrested (Matthew 26:47 – 56; Mark 14:43 – 52; Luke 22:47 – 53; John 18:2 – 11)
12. Jesus Is Brought Before Annas (John 18:12 – 14, 19 - 23)
13. Jesus Is Brought Before Caiaphas (Matthew 26:57, 59 – 68; Mark 14:53, 55 – 65; Luke 22:54, 63 - 65; John 18:24)

14. Peter's Denials (Matthew 26:58, 69 – 75; Mark 14:54, 66 – 72; Luke 22:55 – 62; John 18:15 – 18, 25 – 27)
15. Jesus Condemned By the Sanhedrin (Matthew 27:1 - 2; Mark 15:1; Luke 22:66 – 71)
16. Suicide of Judas (Matthew 27: 3 – 10)
17. Jesus First Appearance Before Pilate (Matthew 27:11 – 14; Mark 15:2 – 5; Luke 23:1 – 5; John 18:28 – 38)
18. Jesus Appears Before Herod (Luke 23:6 – 12)
19. Jesus Second Appearance Before Pilate and Release of Barabbas (Matthew 27:15 – 26; Mark 15:6 – 15; Luke 23:13 – 25; John 18:39 – 40)
20. Jesus Mocked and Beaten and Final Sentence Pronounced (Matthew 27:27 – 31; Mark 15:16 – 19; John 19:1 – 16)
21. Journey to Golgotha (Matthew 27:32 – 34; Mark 15:20 – 23; Luke 23:26 – 32; John 19:17)
22. The Crucifixion (Matthew 27:35 – 44; Mark 15:24 – 32; Luke 23:33 – 43; John 19:18 – 27)
23. The Last Hours (Matthew 27:45 – 50; Mark 15:33 – 37; Luke 23:44 – 46; John 19:28 – 37)
24. Miraculous Occurrences at the Cross (Matthew 27:51 – 56; Mark 15:38 – 41; Luke 23:47 – 49)
25. Jesus' Burial (Matthew 27:57 – 61; Mark 15:42 – 47; Luke 23:50 – 56; John 19:38 – 42)
26. Pilate Seals the Tomb (Matthew 27:62 – 66)

Read Luke 22:31 – 38; 54 - 62

This passage will describe the worst failure in Peter's life. I believe, however, that this event will teach Peter a great lesson. As a result of his failure here, he will learn how to walk in the fullness of the Spirit.

"Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall." (Proverbs 16:18)

The Flesh = Failure

Fullness of the Spirit = Faithfulness to the Lord

The key to understanding this passage is the statement in v 32: *"when thou art converted"* The conversion spoken of here is not Peter's salvation experience, but the transformation that will take place in his life after he is filled with the power of the Holy Spirit.

I. A Pronouncement Rooted In Pride (Luke 22:31 - 35)

"I Can Do Anything"

"And he said, That which cometh out of the man, that defileth the man. For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, Thefts, covetousness,

wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness: All these evil things come from within, and defile the man." - (Mark 7:20-23)

II. A Failure Caused by the Flesh (Luke 22:54 – 62)

"Then began he to curse and to swear, saying, I know not the man. And immediately the cock crew." - (Matthew 26:74)

Every time we try to do something for God in the flesh (in our own strength) we are doomed for failure.

"It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life." - (John 6:63)

Notice that Peter's failure caused him to lose all of the confidence he used to have in himself.

"So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me more than these? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my lambs. He saith to him again the second time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my sheep. He saith unto him the third time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third time, Lovest thou me? And he said unto him, Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love thee. Jesus saith unto him, Feed my sheep. Verily, verily, I say unto thee, When thou wast young, thou girdedst thyself, and walkedst whither thou wouldst: but when thou shalt be old, thou shalt stretch forth thy hands, and another shall gird thee, and carry thee whither thou wouldst not. This spake he, signifying by what death he should glorify God. And when he had spoken this, he saith unto him, Follow me." (John 21:15-19)

He is a beaten and broken man.

"I Can't Do Anything – I'm A Miserable Failure"

III. Service Powered by the Spirit (Acts 2:1 – 4; 38 – 41; Acts 3:1 – 7; Acts 9:36 - 43)

"And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high." - (Luke 24:49)

"But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." - (Acts 1:8)

"I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." - (Philippians 4:13)

"To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:" - (Colossians 1:27)