

#1 Matt. 26:69-75 “To Be Disappointed With Yourself...”

#2 Matthew 26:58 Meanwhile, Peter followed him at a distance and came to the high priest’s courtyard. He went in and sat with the guards and waited to see how it would all end...⁶³ But Jesus remained silent. Then the high priest said to him, “I demand in the name of the living God—tell us if you are the Messiah, the Son of God.”⁶⁴ Jesus replied, “You have said it. And in the future you will see the Son of Man seated in the place of power at God’s right hand and coming on the clouds of heaven.”⁶⁵ Then the high priest tore his clothing to show his horror and said, “Blasphemy! Why do we need other witnesses? You have all heard his blasphemy.

*****What a picture; the true “High Priest” of Israel is rejected by the “man appointed” high priest of Israel – instead of stepping aside and offering Jesus His rightful place – he calls for His death in order to temporarily hold on to the office. But nothing could stop Jesus from assuming His “office”!***

#3 69 Now Peter **sat outside in the courtyard**. And a **servant girl came to him**, saying, "You also were with Jesus of Galilee." 70 **But he denied it before them all, saying, "I do not know what you are saying."**

“sat outside in the courtyard” #4 Luke 22:54 (NLT) So they arrested him and led him to the high priest’s home. And Peter followed at a distance.⁵⁵ **The guards lit a fire in the middle of the courtyard and sat around it, and Peter joined them there.**

Matthew, Mark, and Luke say that Peter’s three denials happened near a fire in the courtyard outside Caiaphas’s palace. John places the first denial outside Annas’s home and the other two denials outside Caiaphas’s home. This seems to be the same courtyard. The high priest’s residence was large, and Annas and Caiaphas undoubtedly lived near each other. Barton

a servant girl came to him” She fixed her eyes on him as he came into the light of the fire. **#4a Luke 22:56** A servant girl noticed him in the firelight and began staring at him and said, “This man was also with Him.”

“But he denied it...I do not know what you are saying.” #5 Matthew 26:33–35 (NLT) Peter declared, “**Even if everyone else deserts you, I will never desert you.**” ³⁴ Jesus replied, “I tell you the truth, Peter—this very night, before the rooster crows, you will deny three times that you even know me.” ³⁵ “No!” Peter insisted. **“Even if I have to die with you, I will never deny you!”**

These are the good but foolish intentions of a man who trusts in his *own* strength of character “under fire”! Trusting in yourself is rooted in pride; and where there is pride, it will soon be followed by a failure. Samson is an example of someone who trusted in himself and his own strength. God had given him super human strength to always defeat his enemies – with his famous unshorn hair as a symbol of his commitment to the one true God. But when he faced Satan’s temptations through Delilah he lost.

Samson had previously been successful only because the Lord was with him – but it started going to his head: **#6 Judges 15:14–17** (NLT) As Samson arrived at Lehi, the Philistines came shouting in triumph. **But the Spirit of the LORD came powerfully upon Samson**, and he snapped the ropes on his arms as if they were burnt strands of flax, and they fell from his wrists. ¹⁵ Then he found the jawbone of a recently killed donkey. He picked it up and killed 1,000 Philistines with it. ¹⁶ **Then Samson said, “With the jawbone of a donkey, I’ve piled them in heaps! With the jawbone of a donkey, I’ve killed a thousand men!”**

#7 Judges 16:18–21 (NLT) Delilah realized he had finally told her the truth, so she sent for the Philistine rulers. “Come back one more time,” she said, “for he has finally told me his secret.” So the Philistine rulers returned with the money in their hands. ¹⁹ Delilah lulled Samson to sleep with his head in her lap, and then she called in a man to shave off the seven locks of his hair. In this way she began to bring him down, and his strength left him. ²⁰ Then she cried out, “Samson! The Philistines have come to capture you!” When he woke up, he thought, “I will do as before and shake myself free.” But he didn’t realize the LORD had left him. ²¹ So the Philistines captured him and gouged out his eyes. They took him to Gaza, where he was bound with bronze chains and forced to grind grain in the prison...²⁸ Then Samson prayed to the LORD, “Sovereign LORD, remember me again. O God, please strengthen me just one more time. With one blow let me pay back the Philistines for the loss of my two eyes.”

We all trust in ourselves frequently; and failure follows – because God loves us and wants us to learn to trust *only* in Him! The truth is that we deceive ourselves that we are better or stronger than we really are; but we don’t know how weak and prone to sin we really are, until the Lord in His mercy shows us.

#8 71 And **when he had gone out to (toward) the gateway**, another girl saw him and said to those who were there, "This fellow also was with Jesus of Nazareth." 72 But again he denied with an oath, "I do not know the Man!"

“when he had gone out to the gateway” Peter left the fire and went to the shadows! It seems that in his frustration as a result of the first embarrassment, Peter tried to get out of the building. Henriksen He was torn between his fear of being caught by those in authority, and his love for Jesus and faithfulness to his oath!

#9 73 And a little later those who stood by came up and said to Peter, "Surely you also are one of them, for your speech betrays you." 74 Then he began to curse and swear, saying, "I do not know the Man!"

"a little later" It was an hour later! **#10 Luke 22:59–60 (NKJV)** Then **after about an hour had passed**, another confidently affirmed, saying, "Surely this *fellow* also was with Him, for he is a Galilean." ⁶⁰ But Peter said, "Man, I do not know what you are saying!" Immediately, while he was still speaking, the rooster crowed.

"those who stood by came up" One of them was related to Malchus and recognized Peter. **#11 John 18:26–27 (NLT)** But one of the household slaves of the high priest, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, asked, "Didn't I see you out there in the olive grove with Jesus?" ²⁷ Again Peter denied it. And immediately a rooster crowed.

#12 During the interval of an hour **the news about Peter has been spreading**. Now the palace servants and the officers, the men who are standing around the fire with Peter, begin to tell him that he is one of Christ's disciples, and that his very "drawl" identifies him as a Galilean. **A comparison of the Gospel accounts shows that some people are talking to Peter; others, about him.** Accusations are flying in from every side and as **if all this were not enough, a relative of Malchus blurts out, "Did I not see you in the garden with Jesus?"** Hendriksen

"Then he began to curse and swear" The words *on himself* are **not** in the Greek, and the verb used normally indicates cursing someone else. Peter was apparently prepared even to curse Jesus (as later Christians were forced to do in order to escape execution). New Bible Commentary

"I do not know the Man!" "The Man" as if Jesus were a complete stranger to him – the oath was not swearing as in cursing – but swearing as in a court of law. This is essentially

taking the Name of the LORD in vain! **#13** An oath in Jewish culture made God a party to the assertion, calling down the judgment of God if the words spoken were false. This was an ultimate oath of denial. Peter invited God's curse on himself if he was not telling the truth when he said, **I don't know the man!** Dr. Weber

#14 Immediately a rooster crowed. 75 And **Peter remembered** the word of Jesus who had said to him, "Before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times." So he went out and wept bitterly.

"Immediately a rooster crowed" Some believe this was a Roman rooster because roosters & chickens were not allowed in the city. Others say it is the trumpet signal for the changing of the guard at the fortress Antonio – because they called that signal for the changing of the guard the “cock-crow”; no matter what it was, the sound came as Jesus had said it would after Peter's 3rd denial!

"Peter remembered" And we find out from Luke that the Lord turned and looked at Peter. **#15 Luke 22:61 (NLT)** At that moment **the Lord turned and looked at Peter.** Suddenly, the Lord's words flashed through Peter's mind: “Before the rooster crows tomorrow morning, you will deny three times that you even know me.” ⁶² And Peter left the courtyard, weeping bitterly.

This of course was the complete failure of Peter as Jesus predicted, He wouldn't have been here at all if he hadn't trusted his own strength. The weeping is the weeping of the recognition of failure. The penetrating look of Jesus will break a heart. Thank God for that look that brings us to the place of deep and sincere repentance.

#16 As Dr. Newell said in his description of grace; “To be disappointed with yourself, is to have believed in yourself.” A FEW WORDS ABOUT GRACE by William Newell

Peter learned valuable lessons which he would later use in his ministry. **#16a** “To refuse to make "resolutions" and "vows"; for that is to trust in the flesh.” Newell

Jesus later restored Peter in their relationship and to his position of authority among believers. **#17 John 21:15–17 (NLT)** After breakfast Jesus asked Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?” “Yes, Lord,” Peter replied, “you know I love you.” “Then feed my lambs,” Jesus told him. ¹⁶ Jesus repeated the question: “Simon son of John, do you love me?” “Yes, Lord,” Peter said, “you know I love you.” “Then take care of my sheep,” Jesus said. ¹⁷ A third time he asked him, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” Peter was hurt that Jesus asked the question a third time. He said, “Lord, you know everything. You know that I love you.” Jesus said, “Then feed my sheep.

Peter learned through his experience of failure, repentance and restoration, another truth Mr. Newell stated: **#17a** “The failure of devotion does not cause the withdrawal of bestowed grace (as it would under law).”

Lastly, Peter learned the value of humility and its absolute necessity among believers. He passed on this understanding to the church as part of his teaching: **#18 1 Peter 5:5** And all of you, serve each other in humility, for “God opposes the proud but favors the humble.” ⁶ **So humble yourselves under the mighty power of God, and at the right time he will lift you up in honor.** ⁷ **Give all your worries and cares to God, for he cares about you.**

#19 BARCLAY: No one can read this passage without being struck with the staggering honesty of the New Testament. If ever there was an incident

which one might have expected to be hushed up, this was it—and yet here it is told in all its stark shame. We believe that Mark’s gospel is nothing other than the preaching material of Peter written down. And so we arrive at the amazing fact that we possess the story of Peter’s denial because Peter himself told it to others.

#20 So far from suppressing this story, Peter made it an essential part of his gospel; and did so for the very best of reasons. Every time he told the story, he could say, “That is the way that this Jesus can forgive. He forgave me when I failed him in his bitterest hour of need. That is what Jesus can do. He took me, Peter the coward, and used even me.” We must never read this story without remembering that it is Peter himself who is telling of the shame of his own sin that all men may know the glory of the forgiving love and cleansing power of Jesus Christ.

We should not hide in the darkness over our failures, but rather realize that “No one is good, except God alone.” Our failures should first of all bring us to repent of having trusted in ourselves, humble us and draw us closer to Jesus. Secondly, we should, like Peter, unashamedly use our failures to help others. This is the fruit of true repentance!

Allow Jesus to gaze into your soul right now and bring you to the place of true and deep repentance. Break the silence of your sin. The prayer room is open. James told us to “confess our sins to one another and turn and be healed (Jas 5:16).”