

Matthew 26.31-75 - Sermon Notes - January 9, 2022

PETER'S DENIAL

- one of the things that we all struggle with are those times of personal failure
- we seek to follow the Lord, and are devoted to Him and His word
- why is it that we still struggle with things, and end up doing the things that we would never think that we would do
- the opposite is true too - we often have great ambitions and want to do the right thing, but end up doing the very thing that we did not want to do
- we have come to the end of the earthly ministry of Jesus
- the disciples had with Jesus for three and half years
- we want to look at Peter today, and what led up to him denying the Lord - the principles are the same that lead us down that same path of failure

1. (31-24) ARGUING WITH THE LORD

- Jesus quotes from [Zechariah 13.7](#)
- even though Jesus said that they would all be scattered that He would meet them in Galilee after His resurrection
 - oh, the grace of God
- Peter immediately begins to challenge the Lord
 - we do the same thing, usually starting with the word "BUT..."
 - another we challenge the Lord and His word is when we say, "Not here, not now, not me"
- if ever you find yourself in the position of arguing with Him, know this for sure, YOU ARE WRONG!

2. (35) CONFIDENCE IN THE FLESH

- the second mistake that Peter made was that He was confident that he would be able to stand with the Lord, even if no one else would
- how often have we thought the same thing - I can handle this
- Paul begins the section of Romans where he reveals his own struggles by saying, "For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) nothing good dwells; for to will is present with me, but [how] to perform what is good I do not find. " ([Romans 7:18](#))

3. (36-46) PRAYLESSNESS

- in the time of His agony, Jesus asked His disciples' to watch and pray with Him
- as He came back from praying the first time, He found them asleep
 - this leads to the very probing question, "Could you not watch and pray with Me one hour?"
 - what is keeping us from spending time in prayer
 - TV, entertainment, busyness,
- listen to the warning that Jesus gives His disciples after finding them sleeping (v.41)

4. (47-56) FIGHTING THE WRONG BATTLES

- Peter showed great courage, but he was fighting the wrong battle
- Paul warned us in [Ephesians 6:12](#), "For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual [hosts] of wickedness in the heavenly [places]."

5. (57-68) FOLLOWING AT A DISTANCE

- .That is a great problem for many believers today, they seek to follow Jesus afar off.
- They desire to walk on the fence with Jesus on one side, and the world on the other.
 - The result is they have too much of Jesus to be fully comfortable in the world, and too much of the world to be happy in Jesus.
 - They are miserable when they are living in the worldly scene because of the conviction they feel. They are miserable in church for the same reason.

6. (69-75) HANGING OUT WITH THE WRONG CROWD

- according to [Luke 22.55](#), Peter was warming himself in the fire of the enemy
- how often does being in the wrong place with the wrong people cause us to be just like Peter
 - Trying to find warmth in the worldly scene. Seeking to find comfort or pleasure in a worldly environment
 - has anyone ever said to you, "I thought you were a Christian"

if you have stumbled, down stay in the place of defeat.

He is the God of the second chance.

Come to Him - He loves you.