

## Walking with Jesus

### Part 4

“What Satan meant for evil, God intends for good”

#### **Mark 14** NKJV

**27** Then Jesus said to them, “All of you will be made to stumble because of Me this night, for it is written:

‘I will strike the Shepherd,  
And the sheep will be scattered.’

**28** “But after I have been raised, I will go before you to Galilee.”

**29** Peter said to Him, “Even if all are made to stumble, yet I *will* not *be*.”

**30** Jesus said to him, “Assuredly, I say to you that today, *even* this night, before the rooster crows twice, you will deny Me three times.”

**31** But he spoke more vehemently, “If I have to die with You, I will not deny You!”

And they all said likewise.

#### **Vs. 27a**

Then Jesus said to them, “All of you will be made to stumble because of Me this night,

- When Jesus said this, the Disciples must have been shocked...
- First Jesus shares about his betrayal and death, now he tells them they will all stumble...
- This means that everyones faith is about to be challenged and they will struggle with what’s about to happen...
- Everyone will be challenged by this...
- But just because you stumble doesn’t mean they fall...

- For some of the Disciples, they fell when they hopped they wouldn't, but not all...

### **Vs. 27b**

“All of you will be made to stumble because of Me this night, for it is written:

‘I will strike the Shepherd,  
And the sheep will be scattered.’

This is another Old Testament prophecy about the Messiah fulfilled

### **Zechariah 13:7**

“Awake, O sword, against My Shepherd,  
Against the Man who is My Companion,”

Says the Lord of hosts.

“Strike the Shepherd,  
And the sheep will be scattered;

### **Vs. 29, 31**

**29** Peter said to Him, “Even if all are made to stumble, yet I *will* not *be*.”

**31** But he spoke more vehemently, “If I have to die with You, I will not deny You!”

Without a doubt Peter's word fit the moment as hearts were weighed by the heaviness of what Jesus was saying...

I'm sure his boldness brought courage to the hearts of the other disciples...

Peter also meant this to encourage the heart of the Lord, by reassuring his love and commitment...

Yet in the middle of all this Jesus is very clear and honest with Peter....

Peter meant this for good but I am reminded of **1 Corinthians 10:12**  
“Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.”

- There is great value in the warning of the Lord...
- The danger is when we think we are above temptation or above a fall...
- The best guard we have against temptation or even a fall is to understand we are never so strong or mature in the Lord that we are above it and we must always take heed to the warning of the Lord...

### **Vs. 30**

Jesus said to him, “Assuredly, I say to you that today, *even* this night, before the rooster crows twice, you will deny Me three times.”

### **Luke 22** NKJV

**31** And the Lord said, “Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift *you* as wheat. **32** But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to *Me*, strengthen your brethren.”

**33** But he said to Him, “Lord, I am ready to go with You, both to prison and to death.”

**34** Then He said, “I tell you, Peter, the rooster shall not crow this day before you will deny three times that you know Me.”

Luke’s Gospel shares something that is very revealing...

Jesus said “Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift *you* as wheat. **32** But I have prayed for you, that your faith

should not fail; and when you have returned to *Me*, strengthen your brethren.”

- Jesus sees the spiritual reality of what’s going on beyond what Peter understands....
- This is revealing to Peter, the Disciples and all of us that there is a real spiritual battle happening. For anyone new in their walk with God this is a sobering reality. If our faith in Jesus was not a threat to the kingdom of darkness, the Devil would have no concern over it...
- Jesus says, Satan has asked for you...
- First I think it’s good to understand that even as God put limits on Satan, in his request for Job, God also limits the devil with Peter...
- Satan would have loved to have unlimited access to Peter but Jesus said, not today...
- Jesus says; Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat...

### **What does it mean to sift wheat?**

- One random ministry website says: Real sifting happens after grain is beat down, ground up and pulverized between heavy grinding stones or sharp steel teeth. Then chaff and husk are separated and sifted from the useful kernel.
- University of Wisconsin says, it’s the loosening of the chaff from the grain.
- Sift as wheat is a metaphor that could also be expressed as “shake someone apart” or “break a person down.”
- What the Devil is saying here is, let me get my hands on his flesh and we will see if he serves you then...

## Satan is pulling on the side of Peter's flesh, but Jesus is pulling on the side of Peter's Faith...

Maybe this is why Peter wrote in

### 1 Peter 2:11

Beloved, I beg *you* as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul,

- A powerful thing happened when Peter becomes the target of the Devil...

Jesus says

**Vs. 32** But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to *Me*, strengthen your brethren."

- Jesus knows Peter will deny Him and yet He prays for Peter...
- Jesus intercedes for Peter and that his faith should not fail...
- Then He says, and when you have returned to *Me*, strengthen your brethren."

**Note:** Don't let your past mistakes keep you from helping others... Turn them into passionate preaching points, meant to strengthen others...

- Jesus knows Peter will return and when he does he will have gained something he didn't have before and will be able to strengthen his brethren...

### Mark 14 NKJV

**66** Now as Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant girls of the high priest came. **67** And when she saw Peter warming himself, she looked at him and said, "You also were with Jesus of Nazareth."

**68** But he denied it, saying, **“I neither know nor understand what you are saying.”** And he went out on the porch, and a rooster crowed.

**69** And the servant girl saw him again, and began to say to those who stood by, “This is *one* of them.” **70 But he denied it again.**

And a little later those who stood by said to Peter again, “Surely you are *one* of them; for you are a Galilean, and your speech shows *it*.”

**71** Then he began to curse and swear, **“I do not know this Man of whom you speak!”**

**72** A second time *the* rooster crowed. Then Peter called to mind the word that Jesus had said to him, “Before the rooster crows twice, you will deny Me three times.” And when he thought about it, he wept.

The first and second time Peter is confronted He denies the association, “I neither know nor understand what you are saying.”

But the third time Peter is confronted it says **Vs. 71** Then he began to curse and swear, **“I do not know this Man of whom you speak!”**

- Satan’s calculated measure to sift Peter goes straight to the one thing that matters most, the importance of knowing the Lord.
- Jesus warns in Matthew 7 that there will be some who profess to know the Lord but he will say to them **Vs. 23** “Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!’”
- The one thing central to our Salvation is knowing the Lord, and Peter forfeits that very thing by his declaration...
- But this time Peter doesn’t just say the words; out of desperation to distance himself from Jesus, he does something else...

**Vs. 71** “Then he began to curse and swear”

If you needed another Bible reference to back up not cursing other than **Ephesians 4:29** “Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths” ...

this is it...

Peter is more than denying Jesus with his words, He is denying Jesus by his behavior...

His emotions, His flesh and fear of man lured Peter to the place Satan wanted him...

- Then Peter heard the sound of the rooster and was reminded of the words of the Lord and it says, **Vs. 72** “And when he thought about it, he wept.”
- Lukes Gospel says **22:62** “So Peter went out and wept bitterly.”

**Bitterly:** violently, with poignant (painful) grief.

At that moment something died inside of Peter...

Something was crushed that would forever change who he was...

Peter always relied on his own strength, but from this point on Peter will rely on God...

At the end of the day no matter what people do or don't do it comes down to one simple thing, our personal relationship with Jesus...

Peter wept because he denied his relationship with Jesus and hurt God's heart...

Luke's Gospel records in that moment, when the rooster crowed, “And the Lord turned and looked at Peter.” **vs 61**

Can I tell you whether we win or lose, whether we stand or fall, God sees us.

**I'm so thankful for two things:**

**One** that Peter wept bitterly...

**2 Corinthians 7:10** Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret

- Godly sorrow is a gift of the Spirit. It is a deep realization that our actions have offended God.
- Peter experienced Godly sorrow and that is the one thing that brings him back to Jesus...

**Two** that even though Peter fell and denied Jesus three times, Jesus graciously reinstated Peter privately after his resurrection.

- This is hope for everyone of us...
- What Satan meant for evil, God turned around for good

Closing:

**1 John 2:1**

My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.