

# Failure: Freedom or Fixation

## Matthew 26:69-27:10

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Jesus knows our beauty and potential as well as our weaknesses and failures.

The wages of sin is death.

All have sinned.

Despite the honesty, the story of God is not without hope.

The opportunities before humanity are rather optimistic.

Matthew gives us another opportunity for sharp contrast.

Peter fails Very different outcomes.

Judas fails

### **Peter Jesus**

Rightly accused Falsely accused

Questioned by the servants of the High Priest. Questioned by the High Priests

Denies everything Denies nothing

Reacts and responds in fear. Stands silent with absolute resolve.

Self absorbed (I don't know Offering his life.

the man).

**vs. 31**, You will all fall away because of me this night.

Peter Specifically

1. He will give-in to a terrible temptation.
2. He will fall away / wonder, not ultimately (complete rejection) before he returns.
3. After he is restored, he must help restore others (failure is a reality).

**vs. 34-35**, before the rooster crows, you will deny me tree times. Peter said to him, "Even if I must die with you, I will not deny you!"

Good self realization -> None of us are as strong as we think.

John 18:15-16 Simon Peter followed Jesus, and so did another disciple. Since that disciple was known to the high priest, he entered with Jesus into the courtyard of the high priest, **16** but Peter stood outside at the door. So the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out and spoke to the servant girl who kept watch at the door, and brought Peter in.

**vs. 69**, A servant girl came up to him

So you know Jesus? You were with him?

Peter freezes ->

*Response #1*

A girl asks a question and he freezes. "I'm not sure what you are asking." More a response of avoidance.

*Response #2*

Of all the disciples he was probably pretty recognizable.

"I swear: I do not know the man."

Once a vine of lies takes root it grows with ease. Each lie becomes easier and more necessary to cover the previous lie.

*Response #3*

Certainly you are one of them. You aren't from here, you are from the same place as Jesus. "I swear: I don't even know who Jesus is (May God curse and condemn me if I am lying)."

Rooster...Weeping!!

Peter has failed. He was swept away into self-preservation, but he does genuinely believe Jesus.

As already mentioned,

- He tried to defend Jesus.
- He intended to be faithful.
- He followed Jesus into the courtyard.

None of this minimizes Peter's sin.

- He denied Jesus repeatedly with anger and fear.
- He failed as a leader and influencer among the other disciples.
- He disregarded Jesus' warning.
- He fell asleep when he could have been praying for strength and understanding.
- He acted against his previous bold declaration. His self-confidence crumbled, he panicked, and gave into fear.
- He lost confidence in Jesus. (vs. 32, I will die, but I will defeat death and rise again.) vs. 58, Peter was just looking at the end (Jesus' death).
- He had forgotten the promises of Jesus.

What has been provided to prevent this?

God's provision of grace found in the reliability of God's word (the promises of Jesus), the unity of God given community, and the Holy Spirit.

Self reliance and Self sufficiency are not Kingdom core values.

**Question:** In what ways is your self reliance sinful? How do you deal with failure? Do you believe in the abundance of God's grace? What would it look like for you to live in the restfulness of restoration? If you are God's child, you have been restored.

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**Chapter 27**

Judas

**vs. 1-2**, Matthew continues the narrative.

**vs. 3**, changed his mind (was full of remorse), regret

The normal word for repentance is μετανο-έω (metano-eo).

This is not the word Matthew uses for Judas.

Matthew uses the word μεταμέλομαι (metamelomai), which means regret.

He feels regret, guilt, shame, but he is not repentant.

He is trying to figure out how to make himself feel better.

- I'll return the money ( I don't want blood on my hands).
- I'll ask the chief priests and the elders for help.

His grief is motivated by guilt not by a tenderness of heart.

He is trying everything possible to make the feelings go away...

Deuteronomy 27:25 "Cursed be anyone who takes a bribe to shed innocent blood.' And all the people shall say, 'Amen.'

Numbers 35:33-34 You shall not pollute the land in which you live, for blood pollutes the land, and no atonement can be made for the land for the blood that is shed in it, except by the blood of the one who shed it.

In Judas' desperation he seeks relief from his guilt through godless religion (following the letter of the law without understanding its intent) rather than the life that comes from Jesus.

...Except acknowledging his failure before a merciful and gracious God (TRUE repentance).

### **Judas Peter**

Filled w/ self loathing (regret) Remorse and Repentance

Tried to deal with the guilt Reaffirmed his faith and took his himself. sin to Jesus.

*Be like Mary. Find healing like Peter. Don't be like Judas.*

**Question:** Are there areas in your life where you are drowning in regret or guilt? Are you stuck or fixated on past or current mistakes? How is the Holy Spirit asking you to deal with the depth of these emotions? Are you trying to manage or cope in other ways? Are you reaching out to a trusted follower of Jesus? If not, why not?

**vs. 6-10**, Used the money to buy a field as a burial place for strangers (foreigners).

Jesus is exactly where he is intended to be.

Jeremiah (Oral tradition) -> not contained in OT, but recorded by Zechariah.

Zechariah 11:12-13 Then I said to them, "If it seems good to you, give me my wages; but if not, keep them." And they weighed out as my wages thirty pieces of silver. **13** Then the Lord said to me, "Throw it to the potter"—the lordly price at which I was priced by them. So I took the thirty pieces of silver and threw them into the house of the Lord, to the potter.

