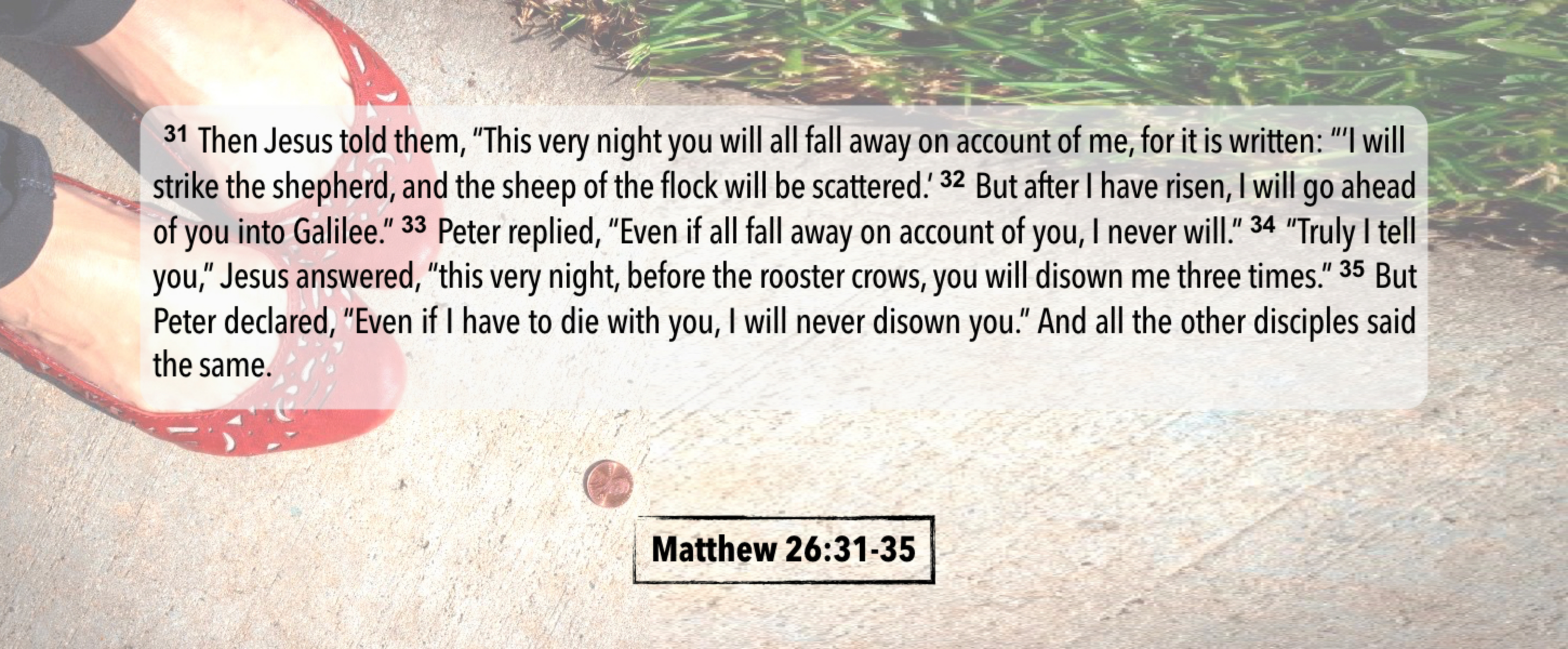




**EMPTY PROMISES**



<sup>31</sup> Then Jesus told them, "This very night you will all fall away on account of me, for it is written: "'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.' <sup>32</sup> But after I have risen, I will go ahead of you into Galilee." <sup>33</sup> Peter replied, "Even if all fall away on account of you, I never will." <sup>34</sup> "Truly I tell you," Jesus answered, "this very night, before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times." <sup>35</sup> But Peter declared, "Even if I have to die with you, I will never disown you." And all the other disciples said the same.

**Matthew 26:31-35**

<sup>69</sup> Now Peter was sitting out in the courtyard, and a servant girl came to him. "You also were with Jesus of Galilee," she said. <sup>70</sup> But he denied it before them all. "I don't know what you're talking about," he said. <sup>71</sup> Then he went out to the gateway, where another servant girl saw him and said to the people there, "This fellow was with Jesus of Nazareth." <sup>72</sup> He denied it again, with an oath: "I don't know the man!" <sup>73</sup> After a little while, those standing there went up to Peter and said, "Surely you are one of them; your accent gives you away." <sup>74</sup> Then he began to call down curses, and he swore to them, "I don't know the man!" Immediately a rooster crowed. <sup>75</sup> Then Peter remembered the word Jesus had spoken: "Before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times." And he went outside and wept bitterly.

**Matthew 26:69-75**



I tell you that you are Peter and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it

Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns

Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it. What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul?

**Recap of Matthew 16:13-28**





This very night you will all fall away on account of me, but after I have risen, I will go ahead of you into Galilee

Even if all fall away on account of you, I never will

Truly I tell you, this very night, before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times

Even if I have to die with you, I will never disown you

**Matthew 26:31-35**





Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift all of you as wheat

But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail

And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers

**Luke 22:31-34**





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**Matthew 26:69-75**





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**Matthew 26:69-75**







Are there ways in which we are compromising/holding on to empty promises and heading down a path away from Jesus and away from who we are meant to be?

Are there things we need to repent of—to turn from and to ask Jesus for forgiveness for—in order to get back on the path towards Jesus?

What might it look like for us to take a step towards Jesus and away from the empty promises of this world?

**RESPONSE**