



Sermon Discussion Questions
March 17, 2024
Jesus in Jerusalem
DENIED!
Luke 22:54-62

1. **Opening Discussion Questions** (in a group setting you will probably only want to do one of these questions)

- a. Almost all of us have ended up doing something that we had said we would never do. Perhaps we were motivated by positive factors, such as the loving encouragement of a spouse, or maybe it was a negative influence such as fear or greed. To the extent you are willing, share such an experience with the group. How did it change you? If you were given the opportunity to do it over, what would you do differently?
- b. Again, to the extent you are willing and comfortable doing so, describe a time when you disappointed someone that you loved. Did you realize that you were doing so in advance, or did you learn about what you had done later? How would your actions have changed if you had really considered how they were going to affect your loved one? Discuss with the group why we tend to do things that hurt ones we love even when we know that will be the outcome.

2. **Sermon Outline/Key Points**

- a. Despite Tough Talk, Peter Denied Jesus
 - i. Satan was permitted to tempt Peter.
 - ii. Peter failed Satan's test.
- b. What Will You Do in Peter's Shoes?
 - i. You will be tempted.
 - ii. You may one day be tempted to stay silent rather than claim the name of Jesus.
- c. If You Ever Fail Jesus Embrace His Grace
 - i. Peter no longer considered himself a disciple after his failure.
 - ii. Embrace the grace of Jesus when you fail.

3. **Study/Discussion Points:**

- a. **Sunday Afternoon** – As soon as possible after listening to the sermon set aside some time to prayerfully ponder these questions:
 - i. What one thing most stood out to you in this sermon?
 - ii. What new truth did you learn or of what truth were you reminded?
 - iii. After listening to the sermon, is there a Scripture passage you feel led to meditate on or commit to memory this week?
 - iv. What is one specific thing you feel God is leading you to do after hearing this message?
 - v. Did God convict you of a need to make any changes in your life and walk with Him?

b. *Monday – Despite Tough Talk, Peter Denied Jesus*

- i. Understanding the significance of Peter's three-fold denial of Christ requires one to start by reading how Jesus told Peter he was going to do so. Read these three accounts plus Jesus' more general pronouncement in John:
 1. Matthew 26:31-35
 2. Mark 14:27-31
 3. Luke 22:31-34
 4. John 16:31-32
- ii. Matthew (26:31) and Mark (14:27) tell us about the need for (inevitability of) the disciples being scattered.
 1. Why did Jesus say their abandonment was necessary?
 2. How does Jesus' reaction to Peter's attempt to defend Jesus at His arrest (Matthew 26:52-54 and John 18:8-11) relate?
 3. How did Jesus actually facilitate their abandonment according to John 18:8-9?
 4. Purely speculation, but what would likely have happened to the disciples if Jesus had not commanded that they be "let go" so they could flee?
- iii. According to Matthew 26:32 and Mark 14:28 what does it seem Jesus intended that the disciples do following His arrest and their scattering?
- iv. Conclude today's study by reading Jesus' High Priestly Prayer in John 17. What encouragement do you receive from the fact that in the same prayer in which Jesus prays that the Father protect His disciple He also prays for you and me?

c. *Tuesday – Despite Tough Talk, Peter Denied Jesus.*

- i. Focus today on the record of Jesus' warning to Peter as recorded in Luke 22:31-34.
 1. What additional information is provided by this passage that we did not find in Matthew and Mark's record?
 2. What Old Testament passage does verse 31 remind you of?
 - a. Read Job 1:6-12 and 2:1-6.
 - b. What insight do these verses in Job provide concerning Peter's future? Who is in control of the situation Peter and the situations you and I face? How does 1 Corinthians 10:13 relate?
- ii. Before telling Peter that he would deny Him Jesus gives Peter a great word of encouragement.
 1. What does Jesus tell Peter He has prayed for him?
 2. In what respect is this prayer of Jesus more specific than that recorded in the High Priestly prayer of John 17?
 3. What does the wording of the second sentence of Luke 22:32 tell us about the results of Jesus' prayer?
 4. With this as an example of what happens when Jesus prays how much assurance should we have in the statement in Romans 8:34?

- iii. What did Jesus tell Peter to do when he “turned back” (repented)? From this how might we conclude God expects us to use our own failures after we repent?

d. *Wednesday – Despite Tough Talk, Peter Denied Jesus.*

- i. Peter’s denial of Jesus is recorded in all four Gospels. Read them, concluding with the focal passage in Luke.
 - 1. Matthew 26:57-58 and 69-75
 - 2. Mark 14:53-53 and 66-72
 - 3. John 18:15-18 and 25-27
 - 4. Luke 22:54-62
- ii. Peter’s failure (sin) was certainly his denial (lie) that he knew Christ. But like most of our sins there were actions that led or contributed to what Peter did.
 - 1. Peter “followed at a distance.”
 - a. How might this have been a factor leading to Peter’s denial?
 - b. Think about people you know (or perhaps yourself) who try to “follow Jesus at a distance” today. How does that lead them to the same kind of denial Peter was guilty of?
 - 2. Peter was “warming himself” by the fire.
 - a. How might that have contributed? What did it show he was primarily concerned about?
 - b. Think about Christians you know (or perhaps yourself) who are primarily concerned about their own comfort and not the needs of those less fortunate. How can that lead to the same kind of denial Peter made?
 - 3. Peter “sat down with the guards” (Matthew 26:58).
 - a. How might the people Peter was associating with have contributed to his denial?
 - b. How do you think Peter might have responded to the accusations if he had been sitting around a fire with the other disciples?
 - c. Think about Christians you know (or perhaps yourself) who prefer to associate with non-Christians rather than spending time in church with other believers. How can that lead to the same kinds of denial that Peter was guilty of?

e. *Thursday – Despite Tough Talk, Peter Denied Jesus.*

- i. Consider the three accusations that were made which led to Peter’s denial.
 - 1. How did they differ? What progression do you see in the denials?
 - 2. How do you account for the fact that Peter had been willing to fight while with Jesus in the Garden (cutting off the servant’s ear) but then cowers before a servant girl? What parallels might we draw with the temptations we resist and those we yield to?
- ii. Then consider Peter’s responses.

1. Do the responses seem proportional to the accusations? What shows the increasing seriousness of his replies?
2. What factors do you think contributed to the intensity of Peter's replies? How do these same factors relate to our response to temptations?
- iii. Mark's account in the ESV tells us that after the first accusation and denial Peter "went out into the gateway and the rooster crowed".
 1. What do you think of this part of the story? Was God warning Peter and giving him a way out? Why do you think Peter didn't depart at this point?
 2. In your experience does God give you warnings as you sink deeper into a sin? How does He do so?

f. Friday – What Will You Do in Peter's Shoes?

- i. Clearly the best thing we can do is to avoid "being in Peter's shoes". Based on what you have seen in previous days what steps can you take to avoid temptation?
- ii. When we do find ourselves in Peter's shoes how does 1 Corinthians 10:12-13 help?
 1. How does Ephesians 6:10-17 show that God is providing a way to endure temptation?
 2. 1 Corinthians 6:18, 10:14, 1 Timothy 6:11 and 2 Timothy 2:22 discuss different temptations but give the same instructions regarding them. Based on these passages what should be our immediate response when confronting temptation? What would this mean in your life?
- iii. Finally, read the Lord's model prayer in Matthew 6:9-13. This, along with Jesus' instructions to His disciples in the Garden of Gethsemane (Matthew 26:41, Mark 14:38 and Luke 22:40) show us our greatest resource for overcoming temptation – prayer.

g. Saturday – When you fail Jesus Embrace His Grace.

- i. While it is possible to avoid some forms of temptation the Bible is clear that not only will we be tempted but we will sin.
 1. What did Peter do when he recognized his sin?
 2. What should we do – see 1 John 1:9?
- ii. Finally, read about God's grace at work in Peter's life in John 21:15-19. If He does that for Peter, what could He do for you?

4. **Application:** Romans 3:23 reminds us that we all sin and 1 John 1:9 that God forgives and cleanses us when we confess. Set aside time this week to seriously consider sins in your life that need to be confessed.

5. Prayer Points:

- a. **A**doration – Psalms 8:1 and 29:1-2
- b. **C**onfession – Proverbs 28:13 and 1 John 1:8-10
- c. **T**hanksgiving – Psalms 95:1-2 and 100:4-5
- d. **S**upplications –Matthew 21:22 and John 16:19