

# Lessons from Peter



# Matthew 26:31-35

<sup>31</sup> 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 of the flock will be scattered.’ <sup>32</sup> But after I have been raised, I will go before you to Galilee.” <sup>33</sup> Peter answered and said to Him, “Even if all are made to stumble because of You, I will never be made to stumble.” <sup>34</sup> Jesus said to him, “Assuredly, I say to you that this night, before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times.” <sup>35</sup> Peter said to Him, “Even if I have to die with You, I will not deny You!” And so said all the disciples.

# Luke 22:54-62

<sup>54</sup> Having arrested Him, they led *Him* and brought Him into the high priest's house. But Peter followed at a distance. <sup>55</sup> Now when they had kindled a fire in the midst of the courtyard and sat down together, Peter sat among them. <sup>56</sup> And a certain servant girl, seeing him as he sat by the fire, looked intently at him and said, "This man was also with Him." <sup>57</sup> But he denied Him, saying, "Woman, I do not know Him." <sup>58</sup> And after a little while another saw him and said, "You also are of them." But Peter said, "Man, I am not!"

# Luke 22:54-62

59 Then after about an hour had passed, another confidently affirmed, saying, “Surely this *fellow* also was with Him, for he is a Galilean.” 60 But Peter said, “Man, I do not know what you are saying!” Immediately, while he was still speaking, the rooster crowed. 61 And the Lord turned and looked at Peter. Then Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how He had said to him, “Before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times.” 62 So Peter went out and wept bitterly.



Arthur S. Ward

# Introduction

Peter proclaims his loyalty to Jesus

Jesus predicted Peter's denial

Peter denies Jesus

Peter felt the guilt



# I. Peter Betrayed Jesus in an Instant

- ❖ Personal time spent with the Lord was not enough to make him avoid sin.
- ❖ Peter was not immune to sin.
- ❖ Neither are we.



# Romans 3:23

**23 for all have sinned and fall short of the  
glory of God,**



# I. Peter Betrayed Jesus in an Instant

- ❖ Personal time spent with the Lord was not enough to make him avoid sin.
- ❖ Peter was not immune to sin.
  - ❖ Neither are we.
- ❖ There are not always warning signs.



# Numbers 20:7-12

<sup>7</sup> Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, <sup>8</sup> “Take the rod; you and your brother Aaron gather the congregation together. Speak to the rock before their eyes, and it will yield its water; thus you shall bring water for them out of the rock, and give drink to the congregation and their animals.” <sup>9</sup> So Moses took the rod from before the Lord as He commanded him.

# Numbers 20:7-12

<sup>10</sup> And Moses and Aaron gathered the assembly together before the rock; and he said to them, “Hear now, you rebels! Must we bring water for you out of this rock?” <sup>11</sup> Then Moses lifted his hand and struck the rock twice with his rod; and water came out abundantly, and the congregation and their animals drank. <sup>12</sup> Then the Lord spoke to Moses and Aaron, “Because you did not believe Me, to hallow Me in the eyes of the children of Israel, therefore you shall not bring this assembly into the land which I have given them.”

# I. Peter Betrayed Jesus in an Instant

- ❖ Personal time spent with the Lord was not enough to make him avoid sin.
- ❖ Peter was not immune to sin.
  - ❖ Neither are we.
- ❖ There are not always warning signs.
- ❖ The spur of the moment is very dangerous
  - ❖ Peter didn't plan to deny Jesus
  - ❖ We must avoid being blind-sided.



# Psalms 46:1

God *is* our refuge and strength,  
A very present help in trouble.

# Psalms 22:19

But you, Lord, do not be far from me.  
You are my strength; come quickly to  
help me.

# 1. Peter Betrayed Jesus in an Instant

❖ Peter had access to the strength needed to defend Jesus but was overcome by worldly emotion.

❖ Anger

❖ Jealousy

❖ Fear

❖ Lust



# John 18:18

18 Now the servants and officers who had made a fire of coals stood there, for it was cold, and they warmed themselves. And Peter stood with them and warmed himself.



## II. Peter's Surroundings Betrayed Him

- ❖ Peter was with the wicked when he denied Christ.
- ❖ It is much easier to proclaim Jesus when surrounded by Christians



# Psalms 1:1

Blessed *is* the man  
Who walks not in the counsel of  
the ungodly,  
Nor stands in the path of sinners,  
Nor sits in the seat of the scornful;

## II. Peter's Surroundings Betrayed Him

- ❖ Peter was with the wicked when he denied Christ.
- ❖ It is much easier to proclaim Jesus when surrounded by Christians
- ❖ The longer we are around immoral influences, the lower our guard and stance for Christ will be.
- ❖ We must stand firm in our convictions.



## II. Peter's Surroundings Betrayed Him

❖ Questions about morality are easier to answer when we are surrounded by righteous people.



# 1 Corinthians 15:33

33 Do not be deceived: “Evil company corrupts good habits.”

# 2 Corinthians 6:14-18

Righteousness

Light

Christ

Believer

Temple of God



Wickedness

Darkness

Devil

Unbeliever

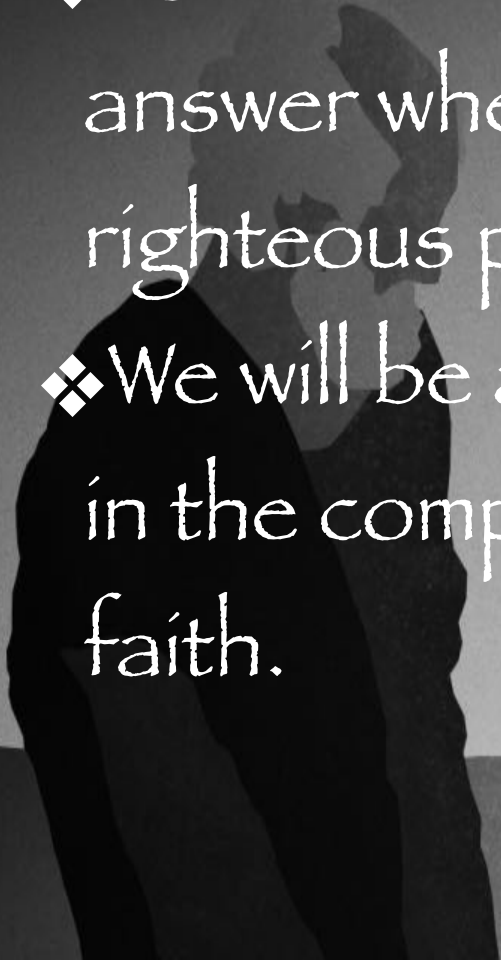
Idols

# Romans 12:2

<sup>2</sup> And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

## II. Peter's Surroundings Betrayed Him

- ❖ Questions about morality are easier to answer when we are surrounded by righteous people.
- ❖ We will be able to handle temptation better in the company of those of like precious faith.





# III. Peter v. Judas

❖ Jesus predicted Judas' betrayal too.



# Matthew 26:20-25

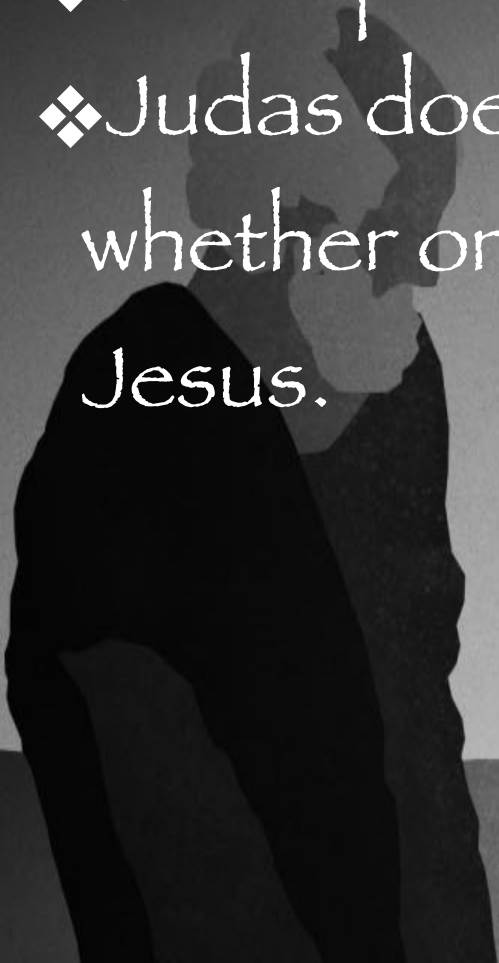
<sup>20</sup> When evening had come, He sat down with the twelve. <sup>21</sup> Now as they were eating, He said, “Assuredly, I say to you, one of you will betray Me.” <sup>22</sup> And they were exceedingly sorrowful, and each of them began to say to Him, “Lord, is it I?” <sup>23</sup> He answered and said, “He who dipped *his* hand with Me in the dish will betray Me.

# Matthew 26:20-25

<sup>24</sup> The Son of Man indeed goes just as it is written of Him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been good for that man if he had not been born.” <sup>25</sup> Then Judas, who was betraying Him, answered and said, “Rabbi, is it I?” He said to him, “You have said it.”

### III. Peter v. Judas

- ❖ Jesus predicted Judas' betrayal too.
- ❖ Judas doesn't even try to argue about whether or not he is the one who will betray Jesus.



# Matthew 27:3-5

<sup>3</sup> Then Judas, His betrayer, seeing that He had been condemned, was remorseful and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, <sup>4</sup> saying, “I have sinned by betraying innocent blood.” And they said, “*What is that to us? You see to it!*” <sup>5</sup> Then he threw down the pieces of silver in the temple and departed and went and hanged himself.

### III. Peter v. Judas

- ❖ Jesus predicted Judas' betrayal too.
- ❖ Judas doesn't even try to argue about whether or not he is the one who will betray Jesus.
- ❖ There is no undoing sin.
- ❖ Peter found the alternative:
  - ❖ Forgiveness



# John 21:15-19

<sup>15</sup> So when they had eaten breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon, *son* of Jonah, do you love Me more than these? He said to Him, “Yes, Lord; You know that I love You.” He said to him, “Feed My lambs.” <sup>16</sup> He said to him again a second time, “Simon, *son* of Jonah, do you love Me?” He said to Him, “Yes, Lord; You know that I love You.” He said to him, “Tend My sheep.” <sup>17</sup> He said to him the third time, “Simon, *son* of Jonah, do you love Me?” Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, “Do you love Me?”

# John 21:15-19

And he said to Him, “Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You.” Jesus said to him, “Feed My sheep. <sup>18</sup> Most assuredly, I say to you, when you were younger, you girded yourself and walked where you wished; but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will gird you and carry *you* where you do not wish.” <sup>19</sup> This He spoke, signifying by what death he would glorify God. And when He had spoken this, He said to him, “Follow Me.”



### III. Peter v. Judas

- ❖ Peter was able to make his way back to the Lord, unlike Judas.
- ❖ Sin is not the end of the fight.
- ❖ We have a way back.
- ❖ Judas could have been forgiven, if only he had sought it out.



# James 1:12

<sup>12</sup> Blessed *is* the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.

# Conclusion

- ❖ Even though we have access to forgiveness, does not mean we should not resist sin.
- ❖ We must endure temptation:
  - ❖ Being on the lookout for human emotions in the spur of the moment
  - ❖ Choosing our company carefully



