

The Fall and Rise of Peter! Mark 14:66-72

Have you ever done something you really regretted!

A)Remember – Freshman college – walking into Church – seeing a friend of mine and his wife – she looked Pudgy - How long Pregnant – Not ?

B)Dunk Tank – what was I thinking – My own mother – paid to dunk me

1)HS Pastors - Jamie Urbina’s idea – Jamie was Promptly fired on Friday – Just Kidding - Worth it – Raise money so kids go to camp.

C)The time I decided – to Preach coming back on the Same day from Russia

Traveled – 37hrs no sleep – delirious -

1)I literally didn’t know what I was talking about – 13 people still got saved.

D)Those are all minor Regrets – not a big deal – lesson learned.

Many have - Major Regrets– You denied your marriage vows.

A)Said something in a moment of anger – Estranged from a friend or a relative and never been repaired.

B)You Digressed back to an area of sin. – Never thought I would do that again.

C)Today – we are going to look at a man who did – the unthinkable – unimaginable – not once, twice, but three times.

1)HE DENIED KNOWING JESUS!

Lessons: How did this happen.

Hope: That was not the end of His story!

Title: The Fall and the Rise of Peter

RD PASSAGE

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

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

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

A)John’s gospel tells us that the third person was actually Malchus who at the arrest, Peter cut off his ear.

B)Malchus – I know you were one of them -- Raise up your hand

C)Someone else CHIMES IN – you talk like a guy from Galilee-Hicksville Galilean Accent.

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

D) Swear – the idea is Peter Pronounced Anathema on Himself.

1)I will be damned if I am not telling the truth – I don’t know the Man!

⁷²A 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.

If you were reading this story for the first time- and you didn’t know about Jesus’ prediction a few verses earlier in the Chapter – this would happen

A)What we just read would have left you shocked - NOT PETER!
- **Thomas**

B)No way bro – how could you do that!

C)Yet I think most of us – could probably think of at least one person that we know personally – where this story has played out in their life.

1)**Someone we knew – Did the unthinkable – the unimaginable, ruining their own lives and hurting the people around them.**
What can we learn from Peter's Failure – Avoid falling into the same type of Sin or doing something you would FOREVER REGRET.

A)Today first part of our study – look at 4 reasons for Peter's Failure.

B)**Warning for all of us** – Wake up call to some who are already heading down that road.

C)Finish up – Message of Hope - Although Peter failed big – But He was also Restored BIG TOO! – USED MIGHTILY BY GOD!

Set Scene: Final week in the Life of our Lord before Cross GREATEST WEEK IN HISTORY – Last week noted celebration of Passover.

A) Jesus meeting in an upper room with His disciples – He shares the Passover meal with them – gives it New Meaning – His Body & Blood

B)We learn from John's gospel that after the meal – Jesus **washed the disciples feet** – giving them an example of a servant leadership.

C)At that point Mark's Gospel v.27-28 tells us that Jesus revealed to them that they were all going to stumble that night because of Him

D)Again in V.29 Peter – **Stands up & Boast – Though all these forsake you – Lord I will never forsake you, with you to the end**

1st Here we see Peter's first step toward failure- His SELF CONFIDENCE AND PRIDE!

A) **What a boast – for Peter to make** –What an indictment against the rest of the Disciples. –

B)Lord I admit these guys are all losers – don't know why you picked them to begin with – but me?

Lord although the rest of these men forsake you – YOU CAN COUNT ON ME

C)You nicknamed me Rocky for a Reason- cool theme song –
1) Eye of the tiger – I AM YOUR MAN - ME AND YOU – to the death

This was one of Peter's biggest Problems: His over confidence in his flesh.

A)Part of the reason Peter was so bold. - Wasn't afraid to speak up.

B)**Worked in his favor sometimes.** Who do men say I am? You are the Christ..... flesh and blood.

C)Short time later – possibly the same day: Jesus is talking to the disciples - **"I AM going to Jerusalem – suffer and die."**

1)Peter thinks – I got it right last time: Pulls Jesus aside – shouldn't talk like that – bumming everyone out. – GET BEHIND ME SATAN.

Another time crowds were leaving: Jesus asked – Are you going to leave too.

A)Peter again: Speaks out – Lord where would we go ...eternal life.

SMILE ON JESUS FACE – PETER!

B)TRANSFIGURATION. – Lord it is good for us to be here – let me build.

1)The Father – This is my son – listen to him – other words – Peter stop talking and start listening.

C) WALKING ON WATER – SANK BUT ONLY ONE –

1) How far did he get - 5 feet 10? 20? –

D) Saw last time: Arrest – Peter was the only one to break out a sword and try to protect Jesus.

1) Love it Jesus picked up the ear – Put back on –

E) Covering Peter's blunder

1) No one could arrest Peter – NO PROOF ☺

SO when Peter said: Lord though all the rest of these guys forsake you – not me

A) PETER SINCERELY - MEANT IT – not empty words. He never imagined himself doing that!

B) Been Said: AN UNGUARDED STRENGTH IS A DOUBLE WEAKNESS!

1) How can a strength be a weakness? – We leave it unprotected?

Paul said: 2 Corinthians 2:11 Not to be ignorant of the schemes of Satan.

A) Two main areas of attack – He knows where we are weak – He knows our vulnerabilities. - FOOTBALL TEAM – LEFT GUARD IS OUT?

B) So Satan constantly attacks us in the areas where we are weak and Vulnerable.

C) But Satan Also likes to attacks us in the area of our strengths –

1) He knows – **we tend to leave that unguarded.** – BACK DOOR!

D) The minute he hears us say something like – *I would never do that – how could they.* -

1) He moves in and waits for the that moment when we drop our guard.

E) Our Pride and over confidence in ourselves can lead to our Down fall.

Two ducks and a Frog – living in the Pond on Farmer Browns Property! – Friends

A) Drought had to leave – find a new pond – the frog said – easy for you – fly- me I will never make it.

B) GOT AN IDEA – Stick in your bills – I will hang on with my mouth – OK –

1) **UP FLY - FARMER BROWN** – Brilliant idea – who thought of that? **Frog – opened – I did - death**

Pride comes before Destruction and a Haughty Spirit before a Fall.

A) 1st step – Peter's Pride and Self Confidence.

B) 2nd was Peter's neglect of Prayer: Look back v. 33

C) In the Garden of Gethsemane. – Olive Press – Jesus was being pressed.

He took Peter, James, and John with Him, and He began to be troubled and deeply distressed. ³⁴ Then He said to them, “My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, *even* to death. Stay here and watch.”

³⁵ He went a little farther, and fell on the ground, and prayed that if it were possible, the hour might pass from Him. ³⁶ And He said, “Abba, Father, all things *are* possible for You. Take this cup away from Me; nevertheless, not what I will, but what You *will*.”

³⁷ Then He came and found them sleeping, and said to Peter, “Simon, are you sleeping? Could you not watch one hour? ³⁸ Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed *is* willing, but the flesh *is* weak.”

³⁹ Again He went away and prayed, and spoke the same words. ⁴⁰ And when He returned, He found them asleep again, for their eyes were heavy; and they did not know what to answer Him.

⁴¹ Then He came the third time and said to them, “Are you still sleeping and resting? It is enough! The hour has come; behold, the Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of sinners. ⁴² Rise, let us be going. See, My betrayer is at hand.”

So Peter was sleeping when He should have been Praying. -

A) Lack of Prayer is really a byproduct of Pride:

B)When – **When my confidence is in my ability. My strength.** –

1)Prayer is one of the first things that dissipates –

C)Prayer is the primary mark of a persons dependency upon God!

1)Lord Help me, WISDOM, STRENGTH, DIRECTION.

D)Did you know that Prayerlessness is a sin !!!!

We usually think of sin as doing things we know we shouldn't do –
Sin of COMMISSION

A) But the Bible also speaks of sins of OMISSION – Not doing what we are supposed to do

B) James said *To him who knows the right thing to do & doesn't do it to him it is Sin*

1) The Bible commands us to Pray without ceasing - / Phil. Not worry but Pray / Jesus said – Men ought always Pray & Not Faint

C) So to fail to Pray in reality is a SIN – Sin of Omission

1) Jesus said to Peter watch & Pray but Peter slept instead !!!

3rd step in Peter's fall – He followed at a distance v.54

A) I have been in full time ministry now for 28yrs – I have never met a person who just Decided one day that they didn't want to be a Christian

B) I have seen many though who have walked away from the Lord because of this right here – **FOLLOWED JESUS at a Distance**

1) They slowly started to replace their Priorities in the other things INSTEAD OF THE LORD!

C) Work / Hobbies/ Recreational Activities – replaced their – Time spent in the word & in fellowship - Subtle but very Deadly

Heb. 2:1 *Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away.*

D) **To Drift away** – describes a boat at sea – not anchored drifting / soon tossed to & fro

1) **Beach Strong Current** – soon- out there drifted a mile down the beach

E)**No one backslides over night?** – I think I am going to walk away from Jesus today and jump – head first into Carnality.

1)Slow steady decline.

It Happens when our Fervency for the Lord Diminishes & our Passion Decreases – Other things Start to occupy our thought Life

A) **PRETTY SOON** – WE HAVE Left our First Love

B) **At one time running right Behind** – Now – Jogging at own Pace

C)STARTS with following from a Distance!

1)Paul said: Christian life is a Race – **NEED TO RUN TO WIN!**
FOCUS –AIM-

2)**DISCIPLINE & DETERMINATION.**

And Following from Afar – leads to 4th step in Peters Fall – **Warming Himself at the enemies Fire. V. 55-62**

A) Psalm 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;*

B)Notice the Progression – Starts with Walking / MOVES to Standing / Ends up Sitting – taking part in their sin!!!

Worst way to live – Too much of the world to really enjoy the Lord but you have too much of Jesus to really enjoy the World.

A)Constant battle: Conviction – Condemnation – Frustration.

B) SIN IS FUN – PLEASURABLE FOR A SEASON.

C)Ends wake up in the morning – Hung over – or in a bed you don't belong in – you know it. -

1) YOU do something – Major regret – you carry with you the REST of your life!

D) So by the enemies fire – Peter is asked 3 times -- You are one of His followers & 3 times Peter Denies His Lord – at that moment Rooster crows

Suddenly it is OH NO! - For some of you – your OH NO moment was a Siren – flashing lights – busted.

A) **Or it was a Phone call** – Busted – your sin has been discovered.

B) **Confronted by a friend**, an intervention – Your spouse !

C) **Others it was a moment** – you lashed out – you saw the look on another persons face – that signaled – this is bad! –

1) Not going to be able to fix this one – at least not easily.

D) Others – You have **not hit** your OH NO MOMENT YET!

1) You are at step three – following Jesus from afar. –

E) And if you don't stop right now today – It is coming – ONLY A MATTER OF TIME – Wake up

The Rooster signaled the moment of Peter's BIGGEST FAILURE

A) **BUT** when a Rooster crows it signals something. Something new happening.

B) **ROOSTERS** – remind us It is the dawning of a new Day. –

1) Rooster in Africa- Timing was off - 3am – Shoot that thing!

C) But usually when a Rooster crows - It is announcing a new Beginning

1) It is the Beginning of a New day!

D) True the crowing of this Rooster marked the moment of Peters greatest failure –

E) But it also marked the beginning of something new that God was going to do in him. – With him and Thru Him

Alexander Wyatt “The Victorious Christian life is only a series of new Beginnings.”

Implying it is series of failures followed with New Beginnings

Peter's story ends well! – Peter was restored and used greatly by God.

A) What were the steps to his RESTORATION. – 4 THINGS AS WELL

B) #1 PETER WAS Broken! – ROOSTER CROWED – PETER WEPT - LUKE Peter Wept Bitterly -

C) Peter was Broken hearted – When he realized he did what he promised he wouldn't do.

**“Come to the end of yourself – come to the beginning of God.”
PETER CAME TO THE END OF HIMSELF!**

Luke's gospel CH. 22 V.31 records a conversation that Jesus had with Peter.

A) Jesus said to Peter: **Satan desires to sift you like wheat – but I have prayed for you that your faith would not fail.**

B) Jesus continued: **When you have returned strengthen your brothers.**

C) This is interesting for us to consider: Peters faith never failed.

He didn't walk away from Jesus and become a Hare Krishna or an Idol worshipper or a Satanist –

A) No His faith didn't fail – never stopped believing – He just denied the Lord.

B) I find that so interesting because most people who Backslide – it is not that they don't believe anymore. Still believers in Jesus

C) Still believe he is the only way to heaven: I have asked this question.

Problem is they don't know how to walk -- They don't know how to come back – **We don't make it easy.**

Or they just don't want to right now – Enjoying the world.

D) Still believe – Just not walking:

For Peter this was not a failure of faith:

A) It was a failure of Peter-

B) Peter was **not confused** about who Jesus was – PETER was confused about **Who He was!**

1) He thought he was stronger - Why he went out and wept bitterly – Last thing he ever imagined himself doing.

C) Discovered what Jesus said was true- Spirit willing but the flesh is weak

Some of you have been living in that place – Regrets

A) **Can't believe – ended up here** – can't believe the mess YOU have made of things.

B) NOTE Jesus never gave up on Peter.

1) But this moment where Peter came to the end of himself was very important.

#2 Peter received Forgiveness:

A) Jesus looked at Peter- Same word used when Jesus first met Peter and – Looked – Said – You are Simon – Peter

B) Looked = looked into him- Saw what Peter was going to become

C) This was not a look of Disgust: **“Sure I can count on you ROCKY!”**

1) Jesus didn't flash Peter the Loser sign.

D) Look of love – Look of compassion – **LOOKED INTO HIM/** Peter I know the weakness of your flesh – you just needed to discover it

**1) I STILL SEE WHAT YOU CAN BECOME-
YOU AS WELL TODAY**

E) Psalm 103:8 *The LORD is Slow to anger, and abounding in mercy.*

1) The Bible Tells us that it is His Kindness that Leads us to repentance

After the Resurrection – Go tell the Disciples and Peter

A) Why single out Peter – Priority {Make sure you find him

B) Restoration: He is still my disciple even though he doesn't feel like it.

C) 1 Cor. 15 – Private conversation: Restored

D) STEP #2 PETER WAS FORGIVEN! – There is always forgiveness available for the broken hearted!

1) Psalm 51 God says: **A broken and contrite heart – I will not turn away from!**

Step # 3 Peter Saw the Risen Lord!

A) Jesus was alive – **Jesus beat death** – Jesus was worth following!

B) Peter loved Jesus before the cross - when He thought – Messiah – Redeem Israel from the Romans.

C) Peter loved Jesus even More – when He finally understood – Jesus came to deliver him from his Sin!

This is a key for every Christ follower: I am not a Christian because I believe that Jesus can make my life Better – He has!

A) Or Jesus can help me have a better marriage – even though he does.

B) Jesus can make me a better Parent -- He does that too

C) NO I am a Christ follower because Jesus predicted His own Murder – When and how he would be murdered.

1) Jesus predicted that three days later He would Rise again from the dead

D) He pulled that off – He is worth Following!

SO Peter was restored – He was Broken – He received Forgiveness – He saw Jesus – Risen from the Dead.

But the thing that really Changed Peter was when he discovered the key to following Jesus was not being self Confident – but God confident

A) The Key was not in TRYING HARDER – it is in SURRENDER.

B) That happened when Peter was Baptized with the Holy Spirit.

C) After the Resurrection – Jesus told his disciples to go back to Jerusalem- hot bed

1) Dangerous - Risky – Had to Surrender – Yield to Jesus –

D) Go Back and wait for the Holy S[pirit to come UPON YOU

1) John 14 – **HE IS WITH YOU** – WITH JESUS

2) SHALL **BE IN YOU**- John 20 Breathed – Born again.

But Jesus said: Something new is going to happen Holy Spirit is going to come upon you – Baptized. Acts 1

A) Not WATER – BUT WITH THE Holy Spirit = Power

B) IDEA – NOT YOU GETTING MORE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT - It is Him getting more of you

C) THINK this way - Going in the ocean – One foot – Knee – Shoulder – Over the head

D) He is moving you – He is enabling you -

Here is the Result: Holy Spirit falls on the day of Pentecost!

A) Disciples are filled with Power and Boldness – tongues

B) Crowd gathers outside the house – commotion – These men are drunk

C) Peter stands up and Preaches – says – Not drunk – Prophet Joel

–

1) You crucified Jesus the Messiah – But He rose –

D) How to be saved? Repent and Believe.

Turn from your sin – Change your mind about Jesus – Follow Him with your whole heart!

That is the beauty of the Christian life – Jesus said: Not leave you orphans

A) Helper – the Holy Spirit – empowers you.

B) Saved Holy Spirit indwells – but He wants to fill us everyday – Ephesians 5:18 Be continually being filled.

C) Listen – as we close: 4 types of people here today.

#1 Those Running Strong – Let this be a reminder -- Avoid Falling - Stay focused & dependent

#2 Those who have fallen – big time regrets – but you have repented – returned – KNOW – FORGIVEN

A) Jesus is able to restore the years locust eaten – He is looking into you – sees finish product.

B) Hang in there – Keep – dependent – Holy Spirit – filled afresh.

#3 Those who are following from afar – Wake up Return -

#4 Those not following at All – never have – or once did – Rebelled - Surrender today.

Jesus died for you – Loves you – Rose – Life - Worth following Celebrate that communion: