

LESSON #84 – PETER’S DENIAL AND THE DEATH OF JUDAS

Matt. 26:69-27:10; Mar 14:66-72; Luke 22:54-62; John 18:15-27

In our lesson today we read of two of the disciples which Jesus had chosen to follow Him. Both had been with Jesus as He had preached and they had seen Him perform many wonderful miracles. And yet, when it comes to standing up for Jesus during His last days they both failed Him. They both left Jesus alone. Even though Jesus is not upon the earth now, the Bible tells us that we may sometimes do the same thing by disobeying God. By doing things that we know are wrong and sinful we are denying Jesus and leaving Him much like these two disciples did. We can learn how to stay with Jesus if we will study God’s Word to see why these two disciples failed. We can learn from their mistakes.

We have already learned that Judas Iscariot betrayed Jesus. Judas was a very greedy man. He hated the Romans who were the rulers over Jerusalem and the rest of Judea. He wanted the Jews to have their own nation and he wanted the Romans to be destroyed. He had followed Jesus because he thought that Jesus would be the new King of Israel on the earth. But Judas did not understand what Jesus had come to do. Jesus had come to save men from their sin and to rule over their hearts. Judas did not listen to the wonderful words Jesus spoke but only thought about what he could get from Jesus. He did not want to serve Jesus. No, he wanted to have Jesus serve HIM by doing what HE wanted.

We will see what happens to Judas in a minute but now let’s look at the other disciple who failed Jesus at this time. Peter had followed at a distance and now waited outside of the place where they had taken Jesus. It was the middle of the night and Peter was frightened and cold. Some people from the crowd who had come to arrest Jesus were sitting outside by some fires they had built. Peter sat with them. As he sat there a girl saw him and said, “You also were with Jesus of Galilee.” But Peter, so scared, said that he did not know Jesus. Then Peter got up from the fire and tried to hide by the gateway but another girl saw him and said to the people there, “This fellow was with Jesus of Nazareth.” But again Peter said, “I don’t know the man!”

After a little while those who were standing there went up to Peter and said that they could tell that he was from Galilee too by the way he talked. Then Peter became angry and started to swear and shouted, “I don’t know the man!” Immediately a rooster crowed and then Peter remembered the words that Jesus had spoken: “Before the rooster crows, you will disown Me three times.” Do you remember how Peter had said that he would follow Jesus even if he had to die? But now he was scared and alone and he denied that he even knew Jesus three times. When he realized what he had done he left the place and cried bitterly. Why did this happen to Peter? Because he was too sure of himself. He believed that he was strong enough to face anything. He should have prayed and he would have gotten strength from God. But he did not.

Now, what about Judas? It was now early in the morning and Judas heard that the chief priests and elders were going to have Jesus put to death. Judas had not thought that they would do this. He knew he had done a terrible thing by betraying Jesus. But he had not heard the wonderful words of forgiveness which Jesus had spoken so many times. He tried to give the money he had been paid for betraying Jesus back to the chief priests but they would not take it. Judas was so ashamed of what he had done that he went out into a field and hanged himself. All of this happened because these men did not listen to Jesus’ words and believe!

Memory Verse: “Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation.” – Matthew 26:41.

Application: There is no sin so great that it cannot be forgiven if we believe in the words of Jesus and trust in Him. Peter will learn that later.

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“Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation.” That is what Jesus had said to the disciples in the Garden of Gethsemane. Instead, they fell asleep. They needed the strength which only God could give them to resist the temptations which were to come. It is not easy to be a follower of Jesus Christ. It is not easy for you at home or at school to do what Jesus wants you to do. That is a lesson which the disciples had to learn if they were ever going to be faithful servants of Jesus, and that is a lesson which you have to learn, too. It is not easy to obey. It is not easy to do good when those around you are doing evil. That is what God wants you to do. That is why He gives His Spirit to His people. He will help you. Let’s see what happens to the disciples and to Jesus now.

As Jesus had been taken away, Peter and another disciple had followed at a distance. When Jesus was taken into the high priest, the other disciple went along inside because he was known by the high priest. Peter went inside the courtyard and stood there with others, warming himself by the fires which they had made. Remember that Jesus had told the disciples that they would all run away, but Peter had sworn that He would not leave Jesus even if he had to die for Him. Peter had thought that He was strong enough to resist temptations which the Devil would put in front of him. He was not. Jesus had told him that before the rooster crowed in the morning, Peter would deny that he knew Jesus three times.

Peter was afraid now. He had forgotten about these words of Jesus. He only knew that Jesus was inside. He did not know what was happening to Him. Peter was afraid for himself. What was going to happen to him?! Then as Peter sat by the fire thinking about these things, a servant girl saw him, and said that he had been with Jesus of Galilee. Peter did not want to admit it for fear that they would arrest him too. So he said that he did not even know Jesus. Peter got up from the fire and tried to hide from the other people. He went to the gateway and stood in the shadows. Another girl saw him and told the other people that Peter was one of the disciples who had been with Jesus. Peter said again, “I don’t know the man!”

Peter was from Galilee. He spoke with a different accent than the people in Jerusalem. After a while, some of those standing there heard Peter speaking, and they knew that he was not from Jerusalem. They told him that he must be a follower of Jesus from Galilee. Now Peter became angry, and he started to swear and he shouted, “I don’t know the man!” This was the third time that Peter had denied Jesus and immediately a rooster crowed. Then Peter remembered the words which Jesus had spoken about him. He knew that he had failed Jesus. He had let Him down. He had given into temptation, and he was ashamed now rather than frightened. When he realized what he had done, he left the place and cried bitterly.

Peter had thought that he was strong enough to stand up for Jesus no matter what happened. He was not, and you are not. You need to pray, and you need to read God’s Word. You need to ask for His Spirit to make you strong, and you must then want to please God and obey Him.

Meanwhile, Judas Iscariot, the man who had betrayed Jesus with a kiss, was also feeling ashamed. Judas had wanted Jesus to be King on the earth to destroy the Romans. He did not understand that Jesus came to take away the sins of His people. He had not listened to the words of Jesus. He wanted Jesus to do what he thought was best. Now Judas realized that he had done a terrible thing. He knew that the priests were going to have Jesus killed. He went to them and tried to give back the money that they had given him, but they would not take it. Then Judas threw it at them and went out into a field and hung himself. Judas, much like Peter, had not listened to the words of Jesus. How about you?

Peter's Denial and the Death of Judas

Name: _____ Date: _____

MEMORY VERSE

“Whoever disowns me before men, I will disown him before My Father in heaven.” – Matthew 10:33

APPLICATION

The Bible gives us the words of Jesus to strengthen us and comfort us when we are in trouble or afraid. Peter and Judas both needed to hear God’s Word. Judas needed to understand that in Jesus we have the worst problem of our lives taken away, our sin. If we know that we are forgiven, we can face any problem because we know that we have the gift of eternal life from God. Peter needed to hear the word to give him strength. We cannot face temptations by ourselves. We must know that our strength comes from God.

QUESTIONS

Fill in the blanks with the words at the bottom.

1. All the disciples of Jesus need the strength which only _____ can give in order to resist temptation.
2. Jesus never said that it would be _____ to be His followers.
3. As Jesus was arrested and taken before the high priest, _____ and another disciple followed.
4. Jesus had told Peter that before the rooster crowed, he would deny Jesus _____ times.
5. As Peter sat in the courtyard with the other people, he was not thinking about Jesus, but he was afraid for _____.
6. When the first girl said that Peter had been with Jesus, he said that he was not and then he got up and tried to _____.
7. The people could tell by the way Peter spoke that he was from _____.
8. After Peter had denied Jesus the third time, he remembered the words which Jesus had spoken about him, and he was very _____.
9. Judas Iscariot had been _____ with Jesus because he had wanted Jesus to be the King of Israel and fight against the Romans.
10. Judas had not heard the words of Jesus about sin and forgiveness and so when he realized what was going to happen to Jesus, he went out into a field and _____ himself.

Galilee
God
easy
himself

Peter
hide
hung

disappointed
three
ashamed

LESSON #84 – JESUS’S FAREWELL MESSAGE

Read John 14-17

Who would do the work of God’s kingdom when Jesus had risen and ascended into heaven? The disciples and all those who believed in Jesus. But the disciples were not strong enough or wise enough to do this great task. They depended completely upon Jesus. They still did not understand many of the things which Jesus had taught them. How could the work of the kingdom go on without Jesus? In His final words to them before His death Jesus comfort and assurance to the disciples. That same comfort and assurance is ours today as we read these words. It would not be by their own strength. Jesus was going to send His Holy Spirit. This was the best thing that could happen to them. Their task was a great one as is ours. But God promises that by His Spirit He will give us the wisdom and the courage which we need to fulfill it. And, in the end, Jesus promises a courage which we need to fulfill it. And, in the end, Jesus promises a home with Him forever in the presence of God. Finally, Jesus, the Son of God, prayed for them and for you, that His purpose might be your purpose!

QUESTIONS

1. What is the only way to keep your heart from being troubled? _____
2. What is Jesus doing now? _____
3. Read verses 25-26. What does this have to do with 2 Timothy 3:16 and 2 Peter 1:21? _____

4. In the parable of the Vine, who is the vine? _____
Who is the Gardener? _____
Who are the branches? _____
Are all men good branches? _____
5. How does the love of one another help believers? _____
6. Did Jesus just choose us to live with Him forever in heaven? _____
What did He choose us for? _____
7. What does Jesus warn them about in 15:18 and following? _____
8. According to 16:5 and following, what will the Holy Spirit do when He comes? _____
9. John 17 is called the High Priestly Prayer of Jesus. For whom does Jesus pray in verses 1-5? _____
10. What does Jesus ask for His disciples? _____
11. For whom does Jesus pray in verses 20-26? _____
12. How does Jesus show the importance of His Word once again? _____
13. Write out verse 33 of chapter 16. _____

14. List the verses from chapter 17 which show that our purpose and the purpose of the disciples was the same as that of Jesus. _____

QUESTION TO THINK ABOUT

How does this prayer comfort and challenge you?