

LUKE Lesson 58

Peter's Denial and Conversion; What He Learned

2 August 2019

The Progression of Peter's Denial:

The Lord Jesus warned Peter that Satan wanted to sift him as wheat (Lk 22:31-33).

Peter didn't believe he would ever deny the Lord (Mk 14:30-31).

He hadn't considered the weakness of his flesh (Mt 26:40-41).

He followed afar off (Lk 22:54). He broke his promise to "go with thee" (Lk 22:33) and not be offended (Mk 14:29). He was "following the Lord," but he wasn't "with Him." Many Christians are the same way today.

Peter's actions were the actions of an unconverted (natural) man (Lk 22:32). Satan gave an accurate description of the natural man's philosophy of life: "*Skin for skin, yea, all that a man hath will he give for his life*" (Job 2:4). This philosophy also applies to the saved man who is living a carnal life. Self-preservation is their number one priority.

He sat down with the enemy (Luke 22:55). He fellowshiped with wickedness (2 Cor 6:14-15).

He was unable to fit in with the worldly crowd. They noticed something different about him (Luke 22:56).

He didn't talk the way they talked (Matt 26:73)

He was known by his past (Luke 22:59). If you stray from the Lord, someone is going to remember that you used to be with Him.

A rooster was in closer fellowship with the Lord than Peter was (Matt 26:74). God's baser creatures obey Him while mankind disobeys Him.

Upon hearing the rooster crow, Peter remembered the word of the Lord (it was in his heart), and he saw the Lord looking upon him (61-62). It broke his heart that he had denied his Lord.

If you stray from fellowship with the Lord, as long as you have the word of the Lord in your heart and believe it, the Lord can bring it to your remembrance so you can find your way back to Him.

Peter's trials and experiences:

1. Peter was told to pray, but he slept in the night.
2. Peter failed to watch, and he entered into temptation (Mk 14:38).
3. Peter was told not to take up the sword, but to submit to the Father. He failed.
4. Peter told the Lord he would follow Him, but he denied Him with cursing and swearing.
5. A look from Christ caused him to remember the word, and he wept bitterly.

What Peter learned from his experiences:

1. Trials and temptations will come. Have faith; don't give up (1 Pet 1:6-7).
2. Don't let the fear of man turn you from the Lord; be willing and happy to suffer for Him if need be (1 Pet 3:13-15).
3. Gladly partake of Christ's sufferings. When you're reproached for Christ's name, rejoice (1 Pet 4:12-14).
4. Submit to the governing authority. Practice well-doing rather than violence and resistance (1 Pet 2:13-17).
5. Your old habits and manner of living (cursing, swearing, evil speaking, etc.) should be discarded and replaced with holiness and good works (1 Pet 1:14-16, 2:1, 2:11-12).
6. When you suffer for Jesus' sake, don't sin, don't retaliate, don't insult or threaten. Do what Jesus did; commit yourself to the righteous Judge (1 Pet 2:21-23).
7. Don't aim to deceive people with your speech (1 Pet 3:9-10).
8. Watch unto prayer (1 Pet 4:7).
9. Resist the devil; he seeks to devour you (1 Pet 5:8-9).
10. You may fail the Lord, but He is gracious (1 Pet 5:10). Rather than condemn you, He will pick you up, establish you, strengthen you, and settle you. He'll restore you to full fellowship. We ought to do the same for our brethren.