



Good News

for all people.

The Gospel of Luke



Week 25 Discussion Questions

Week of 3/26/23

Text: Luke 22:31-62

Icebreaker: What are your plans to celebrate Easter? Do you have any traditions you'll be a part of again this year?

1. Read verses 31-34. What traits or qualities does Jesus exhibit in these verses as he talks with Peter?

We see yet another example of how Jesus knows the future (omniscience). Incredibly, he knows how Peter is about to fail him, yet Jesus shows incredible compassion and grace towards him. There's zero hint of animosity towards Peter in Jesus's words. Knowing what Jesus knows, we could imagine him even laughing (scoffing) at Peter's bold claim in v. 33, but that's not what we read. Jesus is all-knowing, forgiving, loving, compassionate, etc. In fact, Jesus already has a mission for Peter after he turns back to him!

Application: Imagine you knew how others close to you would betray you, fail you, etc. in the future. How do you think that might impact how you'd relate to them in the present? How does that compare with what we see here from Jesus?

As crazy as it sounds, wouldn't it be likely for us to be mad in the present at someone even though they had not acted against us yet?

2. Jesus tells Peter, "I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail" and then instructs him on what to do afterward. Peter certainly "failed" in his denials of Jesus, so was Jesus's prayer ineffective? Why?

Peter's denials were a type of failure, but we don't see his faith completely shatter. His denials are more a matter of in-the-moment impulse than a planned-out betrayal (which is part of question 3). Jesus's prayer undoubtedly protected Peter from a greater harm to his faith. The fact that Peter reacted with such great sadness in v. 62 helps us see that Peter cared deeply about what he had done.

Application: Read Romans 8:34. We can live with this same promise that Jesus gave Peter. How does that help you as you think of times you've fallen short in faithfulness?

Jesus does for us what he also did for Peter!

3. Read ahead to verses 54-62. How would you compare and contrast the actions of Peter to those of Judas?

Again, Peter's denials appear impulsive while Judas's actions were premeditated, thus requiring a longer-term plotting. The nature of their "failures" is different as well. While Judas planned harm to Jesus, Peter was trying to protect himself more than cause harm to Jesus. Judas sought to gain from Jesus's arrest, while Peter seems motivated more to avoid potential harm to himself by admitting a connection with Jesus.

Application: What kind of circumstances do we encounter in our daily lives that could tempt us to distance ourselves from Jesus (like what Peter does here)?

One example could include the pressure we feel when we're in a social environment where we want to be accepted and approved of, but admitting or acting consistently with our Christian faith might put that approval in jeopardy.

4. Verse 62 describe Peter's reaction to his failure. What does it suggest about what Peter was experiencing in that moment?

Peter was broken by his actions! He's remorseful as he realizes what he has done.

Application: What other reactions might we have when we've failed to be faithful to Jesus? Why is Peter's reaction a good indicator that his heart was still committed to Jesus?

Out of pride, we might stubbornly deny we did anything wrong or try to minimize the nature of what we did. We could imagine Peter thinking, "I didn't cause any additional harm to Jesus. He was already arrested, and my actions didn't really do anything worse than what was already happening." How many times have we missed opportunities to witness to our faith in Jesus with similar lines of reasoning?

5. *Application:* It's not pleasant to think about how we, like Peter, have sought to distance ourselves from Jesus or made other decisions that undermine what we say we believe.

Considering our own failures, where can we see God's grace towards us in this passage? This passage should warn us about how susceptible we are to failure, but just as much, it should point us to the grace of God when we fail! Peter failed to demonstrate his love for Jesus at Jesus's time of greatest need, yet that did not stop Jesus from forgiving Peter at Peter's time of greatest need.

Take a few moments to thank God for his forgiveness, his prayers for us (Rom 8:34), and how he loves us despite our failures.