

Week 5

Day 1

Scripture Matthew 26:47-56

When you think about people in the bible who are living out that idea of being salt and light Peter may not always be your first choice. Peter is one of Jesus' disciples, one of his most devoted friends and followers and yet he is often remembered for the ways he messed up. But that's exactly why we are gonna talk about him.

In this story you see the moment that Jesus is betrayed by one of his closest 12 disciples, Judas. Jesus is in the garden of Gethsemane fully aware what is about to happen and praying for God to either find another way or if that won't happen then to accept God's plan. After he is done praying Judas comes up and kisses Jesus' cheek as his signal to the others with him that he is the one they should arrest.

Jesus does not make this big scene, he doesn't protest, in fact he tells Judas to go ahead and do what he has to do. Meanwhile, Peter doesn't understand what is happening and reaches for his sword and cuts off one of the men's ears. In the telling of this story in Luke, Jesus says no more of this and then heals the man's ear. Maybe Peter's reaction is one of fear, maybe it is his way of trying to stop Jesus being arrested, either way Jesus tells him no and to put his sword away.

I think sometimes we don't always understand what is happening and so we just react. We make snap judgements of people, we make quick decisions that if we had time to think we wouldn't have made. But in this story we see how Jesus was there to correct Peter. We aren't always gonna get it right and that's ok. The holy spirit is right there to help correct us when we go off course, when we make those snap decisions. Because while we are aiming to live a life that is being the salt and light of the world, we are still humans who fail, but we have the holy spirit there ready to help correct us and get us back on track.

Day 2

Scripture Matthew 26:69-75

Today we are gonna look at what is probably what Peter is most well known for, his denial of Jesus. This story takes place after Jesus is arrested but before he stands trials before Pilate and is crucified. Peter has just watched his friend and teacher be arrested and brought before the high priest. There Jesus is accused of blasphemy and therefore deserving of death by Jewish law.

We pick up in verse 69 where Peter is sitting outside the courtyard where the interaction with the high priest is taking place. This is where he first denies Jesus. He then goes outside and is asked by yet another servant girl and he once again denies knowing Jesus. Finally some bystanders come over and are like hey your accent makes us think you are one of them, he for the third time denies Jesus.

It is after this third denial that the rooster crows. This is significant because earlier in verses 30-35 Jesus tells Peter he is going to deny him 3 times before the rooster crows. At that moment Peter is sitting with him, having just had what is known as the last supper with Jesus and his disciples. At this moment the idea that he would ever betray Jesus in that way is crazy to him. He is sitting with his teacher, his friend, he has not seen him get arrested, has not experienced the fear and confusion of all of this.

But then the rooster crows and he remembers what Jesus says to him. It says he went out and wept bitterly. It's easy to jump on the bandwagon of I would never, it's easy to be like Peter was when Jesus predicts this betrayal. But so often our betrayals aren't the big outright denial of Jesus as much as they are denials through our actions. That when people look at us, they don't see lives that look any different than theirs. They don't see actions that point to God, they don't see joy and hope even when we are struggling.

Peter may have had some big swings and misses but the good news is that his story isn't done and neither is ours. Today I pray that you ask God to show you where you are denying him in big and small ways.

Day 3

Scripture Acts 2:14-41

This is the good part. This is when we get to talk about the highs of Peter. So far we have talked about how he was impulsive and denied Jesus 3 times. But today we get to read about how God used him in a massive way. Because remember we are never just our mistakes, rather our mistakes are important to note because when we have wins, it shows even more so how God used us.

This passage in Acts is after Jesus who died, rose again and came back to earth to make sure his disciples knew he didn't stay dead, then goes back to heaven once again. But Jesus told everyone that he wasn't leaving them without help, he was sending the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the third part of the trinity, God the father, Jesus the son and the Holy Spirit.

So chapter 2 brings us the coming of the Holy Spirit. And y'all this is where I get hyped. Read the first part of chapter 2 to see how when the Holy Spirit comes some awesome and crazy stuff happens. But we are picking up at verse 14 with Peter. Peter, the very guy who has messed up time and time again is now filled with the Holy Spirit and delivers a very powerful sermon. In fact, verse 37 says those who listened were cut to the heart!

Peter had the chance to preach truth to about 3,000 people that day who were saved. Because when we have the Holy Spirit our past and our mess ups aren't important, a willingness to be used is. Peter made some major mistakes, he messed up, but he also was still used by God. Peter's life shows us that no matter how many times we mess up, we can still be used by God.

Day 4 Prayer

Today I want you to spend a little extra time with Jesus in prayer. Take some time to acknowledge the ways you may have messed up. The times that maybe you reacted first instead of coming to him. Ask for his forgiveness and know that he will always be there ready to forgive you and help you.

Day 5 Catch up

We know life gets crazy so take today to catch up on what you may have missed so far this week.

Day 6 Questions

- 1) What do you relate to most about Peter? What do you find most encouraging?
- 2) Do you see your mistakes as a stumbling block to growing in your faith or as a way to show just how great God really is to use you, mistakes and all?

Day 7 Journaling

Today like Peter's epic sermon I want you to take the time to write about who God is and then who he is to you