

“Peter’s Fall and Restoration”

SUNDAY, MARCH 17, 2024 - ANDY WARD



Summary - “Peter’s Fall and Restoration”

As believers, when we are saved, we are sealed with the Holy Spirit and do not lose our salvation. However, we still sin, and in sinning, often turn away from the path of following Christ as we should. When this happens, how do we recover? What can we do to align our sinful hearts with Christ again, and step foot back on the right path of following Him well? This week we will look at the Apostle Peter, his fall and denial of Jesus, and some of the key things he did following his denial of his Savior, that set him up to continue following Christ, and ultimately his restoration as a believer and Apostle of Jesus. This is an incredible story that is woven together throughout the Gospel books of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.

Scripture - Matthew 26-28, Mark 14-16, Luke 22-24, John 13-20

As we study the Gospel, and the scripture passages listed for this week, we learn that the Apostle Peter can perhaps be a bit loud at times, he can be brash with others, and he often puts his foot in his mouth. He can get ahead of himself and often says the wrong thing at the wrong moment. At times he seems to fully understand what is going on in regards to Jesus, and then at others seems to not really get it at all. He proclaims to have a love for Jesus that is more than any of the other disciples and then immediately begins to walk a path that will forever have him remembered for denying Jesus in Jesus’ darkest hour. However, if this is all we see in Peter we are going to miss it entirely. This is a man who is a leader among his peers and who is passionate about everything he does. As we read through the Gospel account, we see a man who doesn’t seem to understand what the word “quit” even means. This plays out after his fall and denial of Jesus in that he continues to do some things that work to keep him not only following Christ, but ultimately restored fully. There is a lot to learn from Peter regarding our own journeys as Christians and what it looks like when we fall, as well as what it looks like to get back up and keep following. Dive into these chapters and verses listed for this week. Study them, research the back stories on them, research the culture, the history, and the characters involved. What is taking place here goes even further beyond the fall and restoration of one man, but also shows the earliest aspects of Christ establishing His church and also clearly demonstrates the love, grace, care, concern, intentionality, holiness, perfection, and all knowing, all understanding, all perceiving, power of our Lord Jesus Christ. Let’s dive into His word this week and allow it, allow Him, to change our hearts as He did Peter.

Proverbs 16:18

Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall.

Key Apps, Websites, and Online Tools for Further Study

- <https://www.blueletterbible.org/>
- <https://www.biblegateway.com/>
- <https://biblehub.com/>
- <https://www.youversion.com/>
- <https://www.bibleref.com/>
- <https://bible.org/>
- <https://netbible.org/>
- <https://enduringword.com/bible-commentary/>
- <https://www.desiringgod.org/>
- <https://www.gty.org/>
- <https://www.gotquestions.org/>
- <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/>
- <https://carm.org/>
- <https://dwellapp.io/>

Further Scripture Study: Proverbs 16:18; Luke 5; Acts 2; Acts 10

Post Resurrection Timeline: <https://bible.org/illustration/resurrection-events>

As you study the scripture verses provided for this week, study for right context and right questions...

Right Context:

- The verse itself and key word(s) that stand out in the verse (meanings)
- The verses around the verse, the section of scripture, the chapter, the book, old/new testament, and relation to the rest of scripture
- Author and Date (Who wrote the book and when?)
- Audience (Who is the book written to? Main characters in the story and/or text?)
- Main points and overall purpose of the book
- Historical background, cultural significance, setting, people, rulers, etc.
- Scripture references; let scripture interpret scripture as much as possible

Right Questions:

- What does this passage say?
- What does this passage mean to its original audience?
- What is this passage teaching me about God?
- What does this passage tell us about man?
- What does this passage demand of me? (Is there a command to obey? Is there a promise to claim? Is there a sin to avoid? How is this applicable to me?)
- How does this passage change the way I relate to people? (What actions must I take in response to this passage?)
- What does this passage prompt me to pray? (For God, for others, for my community, for family, etc.)

Key Thoughts

We all need to understand this! We are all, as believers, going to have moments where we fall and we all need restoration. We need to get back up.

Five things that lead us to fall...

- We get prideful - (Matthew 26:30-35; Mark 14:26-31; Luke 22:24-34; John 13:36-38) - At the root level of all of our sin, we will find pride, selfishness, and self-idolatry
- We stop praying - (Matthew 26:36-46; Mark 14:32-42; Luke 22:39-46) - Pride takes over, we think we are standing strong, and prayer goes out the window.
- We start looking to the world for answers - (Matthew 26:47-56; Mark 14:43-50; Luke 22:47-53; John 18:1-10) - We aren't praying and begin putting our trust in things of the world rather than Jesus Christ, hoping that they will solve our greatest problems.
- We distance ourselves from Jesus - (Matthew 26:57-58; Mark 14:53-54; Luke 22:54; John 18:15-16) - Perhaps still following, but not closely, and allowing the situation at hand to dictate our feelings, thoughts, emotions, and actions rather than drawing near to Jesus.
- We spend time with the enemy/the world/our sinful hearts - (Matthew 26:69-75; Mark 14:54-72; Luke 22:55-62; John 18:17-27) - When we distance ourselves from God, it doesn't take long and we are caught up in old habits, old sins, worldly relationships, and giving into the ways of the enemy, the ways of the world, the ways of our sinful hearts. In this we are setting ourselves up to deny our Savior, to turn from Him, rather than follow.

This is the road that leads to Peter's fall and ultimately leads to ours. If we are all honest, we fall right? We all have moments in our lives, YES, even as Christians, when we blow it with our faith.

Please understand that this is not a loss of salvation for Peter or for us, however, when we do step away from following Jesus when we are following the world and/or our sinful hearts, we are setting ourselves up to fall.

So, when that happens; when we fall, how do we get back to following Him well?

Key Thoughts

Steps toward restoration...

- Remember Jesus - (Matthew 22:75; Mark 14:72; Luke 22:61) - Remember who Jesus has been in your life. Remember where He pulled you from in your sin. Remember what he has done for you. Remember his Word. Remember his promises. Remember everything you can about Him.
- Brokenness & Contrition (weep bitterly) - (Matthew 22:75; Mark 14:72; Luke 22:61-62) - Allow this remembering, this coming "face to face" with Jesus Christ up against your own sin, to humble you. To break your heart. To bring you to contrition.

For the next three points please see the combined scriptures of Matthew 28:16-20; Mark 16;

Luke 24; John 18-20...

- Stay in Christ Centered Community (accountability) - Continue to stay in Christ centered community—you church, your GROW group, your Sunday School Class, your Christian friends, and among accountability, doing life with other believers.
- Pursue Jesus - Continue to pursue Jesus like crazy in every way you can think of. Follow Him!
- Confess your sins to Jesus - Recognize where you have blown it, admit where you have failed, and admit your love for Jesus. Then...follow Him!

Again, only Christ can restore, our works do not bring restoration, however, there are things that will help to lead us back to Christ versus continuing to live in our sin and deny Him. This is a path that leads towards restoration in Christ when we have fallen.

Reflect & Respond

Read Proverbs 16:18. Based upon the message and the other scripture verses provided this week, how have you seen the five steps to falling (discussed on page 3) play out in your own life as a Christian? Do you typically have to make it through the entire list, or do you find that you catch yourself in certain areas?

In the times/seasons where you have fallen as a Christian, what do you find from the five steps to restoration (discussed on page 4) lead you back? Is there a certain thing that brings you back to Christ sooner, or do you find you need to work through them all?

We read in this story that Peter is remembering the Lord and is also broken over his sin. What helps you to remember the Lord when you are struggling? Do you allow the time to be broken when you do fall? (See Psalm 51 for further insight)

Often we can distance ourselves from Christ on our way to a fall, but in this we can also distance ourselves from other believers as well. Who do you have in your life that helps to keep you on track, close to Jesus, and pursuing the right path?

Read James 4:6-10. Where in your life right now is pride creeping in and what does it look like? How is it impacting your walk, your marriage, your family, your relationships, etc. Are you praying through this or not?

Where is God currently humbling you most? How are you trusting Him with it? How are you drawing closer to Him in this season? Who is walking this with you? What is He restoring in you through this?

Additional Thoughts