Peter’s Denial Foretold

Matthew 26:31-35

Mark 14:27-31


John 13:36-38
Peter’s Denial Foretold

Texts:

Matthew 26:31-35,

31. Then saith Jesus unto them, All ye shall be offended because of me this night: for it is written, I will smite the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock shall be scattered abroad.
32. But after I am risen again, I will go before you into Galilee.
33. Peter answered and said unto him, Though all men shall be offended because of thee, yet will I never be offended.
34. Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, That this night, before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice.
35. Peter said unto him, Though I should die with thee, yet will I not deny thee. Likewise also said all the disciples.

Mark 14:27-31,

27. And Jesus saith unto them, All ye shall be offended because of me this night: for it is written; I will smite the shepherd, and the sheep shall be scattered.
28. But after that I am risen, I will go before you into Galilee.
29. But Peter said unto him, Although all shall be offended, yet will not I.
30. And Jesus saith unto him, Verily I say unto thee, That this day, even in this night, before the cock crow twice, thou shalt deny me thrice.
31. But he spake the more vehemently, If I should die with thee, I will not deny thee in any wise. Likewise also said they all.

Luke 22:31-38,

31. And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat:
32. But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren.
33. And he said unto him, Lord, I am ready to go with thee, both into prison, and to death.
34. And he said, I tell thee, Peter, the cock shall not crow this day, before that thou shalt thrice deny that thou knowest me.
35. And he said unto them, When I sent you without purse, and scrip, and shoes, lacked ye any thing? And they said, Nothing.
36. Then said he unto them, But now, he that hath a purse, let him take it, and likewise his scrip: and he that hath no sword, let him sell his garment, and buy one.
37. For I say unto you, that this that is written must yet be accomplished in me, And he was reckoned among the transgressors: for the things concerning me have an end.
38. And they said, Lord, behold, here are two swords. And he said unto them, It is enough.

John 13:36-38,

36. Simon Peter said unto him, Lord, whither goest thou? Jesus answered him, Whither I go, thou canst not follow me now; but thou shalt follow me afterwards.
37. Peter said unto him, Lord, why cannot I follow thee now? I will lay down my life for thy sake.

Commentary:

I. Jesus said to the apostles,

II. You will all be offended, fall away because of me this night.

III. This is because it is written,
IV. “I will strike down the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock shall be scattered.”

A. Zechariah 13:7, Awake, O sword, against my shepherd, and against the man that is my fellow, saith the Lord of hosts; smite the shepherd, and the sheep shall be scattered: and I will turn mine hand upon the little ones.

B. Isaiah 53:7, He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearsers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth.

C. It is God who smote Jesus, the shepherd. The Lord laid upon Jesus the iniquity of us all.

1. God gave his Son for the salvation of mankind.

2. Jesus’ enemies did not forcefully take Jesus’ life against his will.

3. Jesus gave his life a ransom for many.

D. Jesus knew and foretold the scattering, disillusionment which would follow his arrest, trial and crucifixion.

1. Humankind is so fickle, weak and unstable without Jesus, the anchor of our lives.

2. We are all extremely weak without our Saviour and Redeemer.

V. “After I (Jesus) have been raised, I will go ahead of you to Galilee.”
A. Scriptures:

1. Matthew 28:7, 10, 16, And go quickly, and tell his disciples that he is risen from the dead; and, behold, he goeth before you into Galilee; there shall ye see him: lo, I have told you. Then said Jesus unto them, Be not afraid: go tell my brethren that they go into Galilee, and there shall they see me. Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, into a mountain where Jesus had appointed them.

B. Peter understood Jesus was going somewhere from all that had been said that night in the upper room and asked, “Lord, where are you going?” I’m ready to follow you to death and to prison. Which way are we going?”

1. For some reason Peter just “didn’t get it!”

2. Jesus’ ideas of the messianic kingdom and the divine plan had evidently not yet been reconciled and been understood in Peter’s mind.

C. Jesus told Peter that he was indeed going someplace (to death and heaven), but that Peter could not at that time go with him.

1. Later Peter would indeed follow Jesus in death and to heaven.

2. Peter, always impetuous, wanted to know, since he was willing to lay down his life for Jesus, why he couldn’t go with him right then.

D. Jesus asked Peter, “Will you really lay down your life for me? You’ll deny me three times before this night is over!”
E. Jesus here calmly announced his death and resurrection and in a matter of fact manner made an appointment with the apostles to meet them on a mountain in Galilee following his resurrection.

1. Who but Jesus could with accuracy and calmness make such an announcement?

2. Matthew 28:16, 17, Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, into a mountain where Jesus had appointed them. And when they saw him, they worshipped him: but some doubted.

3. Jesus made an appointment to meet his disciples after his death and kept it!

VI. To Peter individually Jesus said,

A. Simon, Simon,

B. Satan has asked to have you that he might sift you as wheat.

1. The devil is our enemy as well.

2. He would like nothing better than to destroy us all!

C. I have made supplication for you, prayed for you, Simon.

1. We can be assured that Jesus petitions the Father, prays to the Father for us as well.

D. “I have prayed that your faith may not fail,” Jesus said to Simon.

E. “When you have turned back, repented,” Jesus instructed Peter.
1. To be a help to others, we must be right with the Lord.

F. “Strengthen your brothers.”

VII. Peter replied to Jesus, insisted emphatically,

VIII. “Even though all may be offended in you, fall away because of you, I will never fall away, be offended.”

A. Peter was very sincere in saying this!

B. Peter’s fall was a great surprise to him when it happened.

C. Peter thought he was the most solid of all the apostles.

1. He thought there was not a chance that he would deny Jesus that night or at any other time.

D. Peter asserted, “Lord, I am ready to go with you to prison and to death. Even if I have to die with you, I will not disown, deny you.”

1. In time Peter did in fact go with Jesus to prison and to death.

E. Peter made three mistakes here:

1. He disputed the words of Jesus.

2. He rated himself as being superior to other apostles.

3. He relied on his own strength to stand firm in times of trial.

F. All our righteousness is nothing but filthy rags.
IX. All the apostles said the same thing.
   A. They pledged, renewed their allegiance to Christ.
   B. They promised to be faithful even unto death!
   C. They all were over confident!

X. Jesus replied to Peter, I tell you the absolute truth!
   A. Jesus always told the absolute truth.
   B. We can have utmost faith in all Jesus says!

XI. Yes, I say to you that this very night before a rooster crows twice, today, you will deny three times that you know me.”

   A. Matthew 26:75, And Peter remembered the word of Jesus, which said unto him, Before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice. And he went out, and wept bitterly.

   B. Jesus spoke of “today.” In fact it was night.

      1. “Today” means “this day,” this twenty-four hour period.

      2. Jewish days began at sunset. Before the sun had set again Peter did indeed deny the Lord three times.

   C. The day, in the Jerusalem of that time, began with one rooster’s crowing, then another and very shortly a chorus of hundreds or thousands of crowing roosters.

      1. Peter’s denials came early in this process, by the time the second rooster crowed.
2. Matthew mentioned one cock crowing referring to all the crowing of all the roosters on that early morning.

XII. Jesus then asked all the apostles,

A. “When I sent you forth without purse, wallet, bag or sandals, did you lack anything?”

**Note:** The status of the apostles had dramatically changed. On the limited commission they were well provided for in a time when Jesus was very popular. Jesus was soon to be crucified. He would later ascend. They would be left in a very different never before experienced situation.

XIII. The apostles replied that they then lacked nothing.

XIV. Jesus said circumstances had changed and directed the disciples:

A. “If you have a purse, take it,”

B. “take also a bag”

C. “If you don’t have a sword, sell your cloak and buy one.”

1. Jesus evidently here allowed self-defense against lawless elements of society set on robbing, stealing and killing.

D. It is written, “He was numbered with the transgressors.”

1. Isaiah 53:12, Therefore will I divide him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he hath poured out his soul unto death: and he was numbered with the transgressors; and he bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.
2. Matthew 26:1-5, Jesus did not allow himself to be killed in a resisting arrest situation. The Jews would much have preferred this method of ridding themselves of Jesus. Jesus did not call for swords to resist arrest.

3. Jesus said that prophecy must be fulfilled in him.

4. Jesus further said, “Yes, what is written about me is reaching its fulfillment.”

E. The apostles responded to all of this by saying, “Lord, here are two swords.”

1. It appears that the gravity and eternal implications of what Jesus said escaped the disciples.

2. They simply related to, “Jesus said we needed some swords and here are two we have found.”

3. How much of what Jesus said completely escapes us today? No doubt, regrettably, much or most of it!

4. Jesus replied, “Two swords are enough. That is enough”

   a. Wonder what Jesus thought of that response to all he had said.

   b. Wonder what Jesus thinks of our responses or lack of response to what he has said.

   c. Even after Peter cut off Malchus’ ear, Jesus did not tell him to throw the sword away. He told him to put it up in its place. Matthew 26:52.
5. The swords, defensive weapons, would have prevented Jesus’ untimely assassination had it been attempted.
Peter’s Denial Foretold

Questions

1. Jesus said, “I will _______________ down the _______________, and the _______________ of the _______________ shall be _______________. After I (_______________) have been _______________, I will go ahead of you to _______________.”

2. Jesus asked Peter, “Will you really lay down your_______________ for me? You’ll deny me _______________ times before this _______________ is over!”

3. Jesus here calmly announced his _________________________ and _______________ and in a matter of fact manner made an _______________ with the _______________ to meet them on a _______________ in _______________ following his _______________.

4. Jesus told Peter, “_______________ has asked to have you that he may _______________ you as _______________. I have _______________ for you that your _______________ may not _______________. When you have _______________, strengthen your _______________.”

5. Peter asserted, “_______________, I am ready to go with you to _______________ and to _______________. Even if I have to _______________ with you, I will not _______________, _______________ you.”

6. When have we been overly confident in regard to our faithfulness to Christ? __________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________
7. What three mistakes did Peter make?

8. Jesus said, “I say to you that this ______________ before a ______________, today you will ______________ times that you know me.”

9. Jesus said to the disciples, “When I sent you without ______________, and ______________ and ______________, lacked you anything? But now, he that hath a ______________, let him take it, and likewise his ______________: and he that hath no ______________, let him sell his ______________ and buy one.”

10. Why did the disciples need swords so badly that they were advised to sell their clothes to buy one?

Finished exam can be mailed or dropped off at:
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