

## **The Gospel According to Luke**

Luke 22:54-62

**Reading:** Matthew 26:57-75

**Parallel Passages:** Matthew 26:57-75, Mark 14:53-72 and John 18:12-27

Sermon #98  
October 25, 2020

### **Sin Brings Sorrow**

#### **The Sin of Pride**

Last week we read of the betrayal of Jesus by Judas identifying Him with a kiss. We witnessed the power Jesus had, with just saying “**I am he**”, all the soldiers, some 600 plus and all the others fell to the ground. We observed Peter in action as he drew the sword and began swinging, but only taking off an ear. Peter was very confident; one against 600, but it was Jesus who held the soldiers at bay. Miraculously Jesus healed the servant’s ear. However, in our study today there is no more resistance, Jesus is bound and led away.

This bring us to today’s passage where we read of man’s sin again God. First, those who sinned because of their ambition with seared consciences and no remorse. Second, man’s sin because of fear that leads to sorrow and resentment. Recognizing one’s sin that leads to sorrow and repentance and eternal life is a gift from God.

In general, because of our egos, we are way too confident in ourselves. Peter had always had a problem with self-confidence. Jesus has already, on at least one occasion, predicted Peter’s denial. However, because of his ego, Peter was not buying it. Some weeks ago, we studied Luke’s account of Jesus foretelling of Peter’s denial, but to show just how prideful Peter was let me read Matthew’s account. Reading from Matthew chapter 26, <sup>30</sup>“**when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.**” <sup>31</sup> Then Jesus said to them, “**You will all fall away**

because of me this night. For it is written, ‘I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.’<sup>32</sup> But after I am raised up, I will go before you to Galilee.’<sup>33</sup> Peter answered him, ‘Though **they all fall away** because of you, **I will never fall away.**’<sup>34</sup> Jesus said to him, ‘Truly, I tell you, this very night, before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times.’<sup>35</sup> Peter said to him, ‘Even if I must die with you, **I will not deny you!**’ And all the disciples said the same.” (Matthew 26:30-35) Peter is speaking with conviction against Jesus, almost to the point, of calling Him a liar. Jesus just told Peter that he and all the others would deny Him. Peter is literally saying, “*No matter what you say, Jesus, I will never deny you! I know what I am talking about.*” Human pride runs so deep that it kept Peter from acknowledging that Jesus had never been wrong. Even though Jesus had never told the disciples anything that was not true and Peter had earlier said Jesus was the Christ, Peter’s ego would not now let him back down.

As written in Proverbs 16, verse 18, “**Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall.**” My beloved, the sad truth is we are a lot like Peter. Whether we admit it or not, pride is one of our main pitfalls. It is the sin that keeps us from doing many of the things we should be doing; spending time in prayer, meditating on the scriptures and submitting to God, serving others in the name of Christ; instead we seek after things of this world because our egos make us think of ourselves in ways that are not accurate.

God dealt with Peter’s pride and allowed Satan to sift Peter separating him for a brief time from Jesus. My beloved, we have something that Peter did not have at the time of Jesus’ arrest; when we become children of God by believing in Jesus as the Christ and as our Lord and Savior, we were given the gift of the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. Peter did not receive the Holy spirit until later. So, we have less excuse than Peter if we take our focus off of Jesus.

So, that we may keep our focus on Jesus - let me pray for the Lord to prepare our hearts and minds to hear God's Word this day.

Please stand while Brother Ivan reads the Word of God from Matthew chapter 26, verses 57 to 75.

### **The Sin of Deception** (v. 54)

In John's account we read, in chapter 18, beginning at verse 12, "So, the band of soldiers (*How many soldiers in a band of soldiers or a cohort? 600+*) and their captain and the officers of the Jews arrested Jesus and bound him." *It is against Jewish law to arrest a person at night.* <sup>13</sup> "First they led ~~him~~ Jesus to Annas (an-nas), for he was the father-in-law of Caiaphas (kah-ee-af-as), who was high priest that year. <sup>14</sup> It was Caiaphas who had advised the Jews (*meaning the priests of the Sanhedrin and the Pharisees*) that it would be expedient that one man should die for the people." It is against Jewish law to try someone after dark and we observe Caiaphas had already determined Jesus would die for the good of the people but in truth he wanted Jesus dead for the good of his and the other Pharisees positions of power. In truth it had nothing to do with the good of the people.

Annas being the former high priest still had a lot of influence. He begins to question Jesus. This is first and foremost a show, certainly not a legitimate trial. It was a show that violated Jewish law from Jesus' arrest to His conviction, but this show was meant to justify what was already decided – to murder Jesus. The priests knowingly violated their own law because their goal was to put Jesus to death and rid themselves of this man who threaten their power and it had to be done quickly before people became aware of what they were doing.

I would like you to notice a couple of things; first, John mentions that another disciple went with Peter, and that was himself. We are sure it was John because this is how John always writes about himself. “Since that disciple was known to the high priest, he entered with Jesus into the courtyard of the high priest,<sup>16</sup> but Peter stood outside at the door. So the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out and spoke to the servant girl who kept watch at the door, and brought Peter in.” (John 18 15-16) John was known to the High Priest and the girl guarding the gate, which implies he had visited before.

The priest Annas begins to question Jesus. Secondly, notice that his questions revolve around theology and Jesus’ teaching. As we read in Matthew 26, verses 59 to 60, “Now the chief priests and the whole council were seeking false testimony against Jesus that they might put him to death,<sup>60</sup> but they found none, though many false witnesses came forward.” In John chapter 18, we read how Jesus responded to Annas,<sup>20</sup> Jesus answered him, ‘I have spoken openly to the world. I have always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where all Jews come together. I have said nothing in secret.’<sup>21</sup> Why do you ask me? Ask those who have heard me what I said to them; they know what I said.’<sup>22</sup> When he had said these things, one of the officers standing by struck Jesus with his hand, saying, ‘Is that how you answer the high priest?’<sup>23</sup> Jesus answered him, ‘If what I said is wrong, bear witness about the wrong; but if what I said is right, why do you strike me?’<sup>24</sup> Annas then sent Jesus bound to Caiaphas the high priest.” Jesus is now taken to the second stop in this cavalcade of false and illegal proceedings which we take up in Luke verse 54 we read, “Then they seized him and led him away, bringing him into the high priest’s house, and Peter was following at a distance.”

Take note that it was only after Jesus is ready does God allow them to arrest Him. As observed last week Jesus is in complete control of the situation. Annas

now sends Jesus to his son-in-law Caiaphas who was the current high priest chosen by the Great Sanhedrin. The high priest is the chief religious official and serves over the temple in Jerusalem. The office of High Priest ended with the destruction of the 2<sup>nd</sup> temple in 70 AD. As Jesus is taken to Caiaphas all the disciples have fled except John and Peter. Jesus had earlier said this would happen, <sup>31</sup> “Jesus said to His disciples, ‘You will all fall away because of me this night. For it is written, “I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.” ’ ” (Matthew 26:31) Jesus was quoting from Zechariah 13:7, declaring His authority, He is in control and He will reign by divine power. When He is taken away all His followers scatter. It is still dark and Jesus is now standing before Caiaphas the high priest, with Peter and John in the shadows. It is here Jesus was questioned further and more false accusations were brought against Him. None of the false witnesses were able to bring testimony that could be used to convict Jesus. Finally, the “last two false witnesses came forward <sup>61</sup> and said, ‘This man said, “I am able to destroy the temple of God, and to rebuild it in three days.” ’ ” (Matthew 26:60-61)

Hearing this Caiaphas stands up and walks over to Jesus and asks Him if He is not going to speak and make a defense saying, “What is it that these men testify against you? <sup>63</sup> But Jesus remained silent.” Then the high priest asks Jesus the question that really brings about the crucifixion - he says to Jesus, “I adjure (*exotkizo* [ex·or·kid·zo] meaning to demand that a person take an oath as to the truth of what is said) you by the living God, tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God. <sup>64</sup> Jesus said to him, ‘You have said so. But I tell you, from now on you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power and coming on the clouds of heaven.’ <sup>65</sup> Then the high priest tore his robes and said, ‘He has uttered blasphemy. What further witnesses do we need? You have now heard his blasphemy. <sup>66</sup> What is your judgment?’ They (*the Sanhedrin and Pharisees gathered for this illegal trial*)

answered, 'He deserves death.'<sup>67</sup> Then they spit in his face and struck him. And some slapped him,<sup>68</sup> saying, 'Prophecy to us, you Christ! Who is it that struck you?' " (Matthew 26:62-68) In Mark's account we are told they had blindfolded Jesus and this led to the question, "Who is it that struck you?" they were mocking Jesus, in effect saying, that if He was the Messiah, He would know who it was that was abusing Him. While this false trial by evil men is going on, Peter is still outside in the courtyard...

### **The Sin of Fear** (v. 55-60)

Imagine the scene in your mind; Jesus is being grilled by the high priest and John and Peter are sitting yards away in the courtyard by the fire. Remember it was John who secured entry for Peter. The servant girl, may have been the same one who guarded the gate, who was first to question Peter. She knew something was wrong and that Peter was one of the twelve. It is interesting to me she knew John and it was John who had obtained entrance for Peter but there is no record of John being challenged. At any rate, three times during the next couple of hours in the night Peter was questioned and three times he denied that he knew Jesus. Reading from Luke at verse 55, "when they had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and sat down together, Peter sat down among them."<sup>56</sup> Then a servant girl, seeing him as he sat in the light and looking closely at him, said, 'This man also was with him.'<sup>57</sup> But he denied it, saying, 'Woman, I do not know him.'<sup>58</sup> And a little later someone else saw him and said, 'You also are one of them.' But Peter said, 'Man, I am not.'<sup>59</sup> And after an interval of about an hour still another insisted, saying, 'Certainly this man also was with him, for he too is a Galilean.'<sup>60</sup> But Peter said, 'Man, I do not know what you are talking about.' " Peter is adamant that he does not know Jesus. Both Matthew and Mark's record of Peter's 3<sup>rd</sup> denial is even stronger;<sup>73</sup> "After a little while the bystanders came up and said to Peter,

‘Certainly you too are one of them, for your accent betrays you.’<sup>74</sup> Then **Peter began to invoke a curse on himself and to swear, ‘I do not know the man.’**” (Matthew 26:73-74) In Mark we also read Peter’s response at his 3<sup>rd</sup> denial, **“he began to invoke a curse on himself and to swear, ‘I do not know this man of whom you speak.’**” (Mark 14:71) Let me ask, “What are we to make of this situation? What are we to think of Peter’s response?”

We could be very quick to condemn Peter. We might think, Peter, be a man, own up to the fact that you are one of the twelve. We could think Peter should be telling the truth and not lying. However, at the same time, at least Peter is there. Where are the other 9 disciples? It is interesting John is no longer mentioned; it is all about Peter. He came because he very much wants to see what is happening to Jesus. I do not doubt Peter loves his Savior. However, the word is spreading that there is a disciple of Jesus out in the courtyard. Peter wants to see his Lord and at the same time, he is afraid. His denials are responses founded in fear; Peter is not speaking what is really in his heart.

Jesus already knew all that would happen. He knew Peter would deny even knowing Him. Jesus prayed that during Peter’s fear, his faith would remain. Going back to Luke 22, at verse 31, we read, Jesus says, **“ ‘Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat,<sup>32</sup> but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers.’**”<sup>33</sup> Peter said to him, ‘Lord, I am ready to go with you both to prison and to death.’<sup>34</sup> Jesus said, **‘I tell you, Peter, the rooster will not crow this day, until you deny three times that you know me.’**” Again, we need to understand, Peter’s faith remained through this sifting. Notice also there is something shaken loose through Satan’s sifting - Peter’s pride. This will enable to Peter to grow spiritually and be bold for Jesus because it would no longer be about him. My

beloved, we too, must realize that those who remain and persevere to the end are those Jesus has prayed for. Those who Jesus has given saving faith; which is a gift from God and keeping that faith for Peter is also God controlled. Jesus wants our pride sifted and removed, so we too, may become bold for Christ and understand the gospel is not primarily about us, but the glory of Jesus Christ.

### **Repentance of Sin** (v. 60-62)

We finish up this morning by taking note of something else God does as Peter voices his 3<sup>rd</sup> denial of Jesus, reading from Luke verses 60 to 62, <sup>60</sup>“**But Peter said, ‘Man, I do not know what you are talking about.’ And immediately, while he was still speaking, the rooster crowed. <sup>61</sup> And the Lord turned and looked at Peter. And Peter remembered the saying of the Lord, how he had said to him, ‘Before the rooster crows today, you will deny me three times.’ <sup>62</sup> And Peter went out and wept bitterly.”**

All four Gospels tell us that when Peter said for the third time that he did not even know Jesus at all, Jesus’ eyes and Peter’s eyes met and the rooster crowed. Everything Jesus had told Peter earlier in the day came like a flood onto Peter’s mind and soul. At that moment through the sifting of Satan, Peter’s pride and self-reliance was broken. It was the Words of Jesus and the look of Jesus and the sifting of Satan all combined that brought Peter to weep bitterly over his sin of self-reliance and pride. God gave Satan permission to sift Peter. Jesus knew that in the sifting, Peter would come out like gold refined by fire. Jesus God had taught Peter about what would happen. Jesus taught Peter that he would deny Him three times before the next morning.

Jesus God looked at Peter and in that moment the work of Satan had its full effect flooded Peter’s mind and soul and Peter runs away in shame, weeping



bitterly in repentance. This was not the end for remember what Jesus knew and had told Peter earlier, <sup>31</sup> “**Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat,** <sup>32</sup> **but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail.** Jesus prayed Peter’s faith would not fail but the sifting would remove his pride. Once Peter’s pride was dealt with Jesus says, “**And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers.**” (Luke 22:31-32) Jesus knew Peter would repent and return and when he did, he was to strengthen the others. Peter thought he was ready to go with Jesus to prison and even to death. He did not know his heart the way Jesus did. My beloved, just as Peter did not fool Jesus, we also cannot fool God. He knows the true condition of our hearts.

I really like what William Hendriksen writes in his commentary on Luke, “*Peter goes out and weeps as only he can weep: bitterly, profusely, sorrowfully, his heart being filled with genuine regret for what he has done.*” So, after the look from Jesus, Peter’s pride and his heart are melted and he repented. So, we also discover that repentance is even initiated by God. Unless God moves, man will never repent. We are all like Peter; without the conviction and moving by God’s Spirit our opinions of ourselves are way too high. We have wrongly estimated the condition of our hearts and our commitment to Christ. As the prophet Jeremiah wrote, “**The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it?**” (Jeremiah 17:9)

I hope we can all understand together, as a community of Christ, that at every step to bring Peter to repentance was controlled and brought about by God. The same is true for us. Repentance is a privilege granted and brought about by God. When we believe in Jesus as our Lord and Savior it is God’s gift of the Holy Spirit that brings about change in our human condition and the faith God gives meets the needs of our souls.

The sin of pride kept Peter from repentance. In his mind, he thought he would never in a million lifetimes ever deny Jesus. Peter even became angry at Jesus and basically called Him a liar when Jesus told him what the future held for Peter. The same is true of us. If we are to repent appropriately and consistently God has to remove our human pride. For us, this can be very painful. It truly is godly sorrow that leads to repentance and sorrow is never without pain.

I pray today, we can see the work of the Lord in our lives destroying human pride and granting repentance that leads to life. My beloved, by God's granted faith and His grace may we live as the apostle James declared, <sup>2</sup>“Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, <sup>3</sup> for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. <sup>4</sup> And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.” (James 1:2-4)

The greatest good in all the world is for us to be in a right relationship with our Creator. For God to bring us into a right relationship we must believe and repent. So, the most loving thing God can do is cause trials to come into our lives that sift away our pride and lead to belief and repentance. James understood this truth, Luke understood, so did Peter and so must we. Amen!