Peter's Fall From Grace

Ken Chapman · Matthew 26:31–33

INTRODUCTION

- But the reality is that when we're lost, something went wrong. Somewhere along that journey, we took a wrong turn that resulted in us being lost.
- Because you see, no one is just instantly lost. There is some step that was taken that led to that result. It's usually a very gradual process.
- I want us to learn from Peter's fall, and hopefully to be more aware of others, and maybe more importantly, our own journey, to make sure that we don't follow that same path.

1 Peter's Fall Began With Overconfidence

Matthew 26:31–33; 1 Corinthians 10:12

- Peter answered and said to him, even if all are made to stumble because of you, I will never be made to stumble.
- Because Peter's fall began with overconfidence.
- Our history, our spiritual history, nor our present circumstances spiritually are any immunization against apostasy. Never say never.
- Therefore, let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.

2 Overconfidence Leads to Carelessness

Luke 22:31–33; Ephesians 5:15

- Overconfidence leads to carelessness. That's usually the next step, isn't it?
- It's always us old guys that have done it a hundred times, and nothing bad ever happened. We get too confident. And we get careless.
- Luke records that not only did Jesus say, all of you, that Jesus singled Peter out by name. And he still missed the warning.
- See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise.

3 Peter Followed at a Distance

Luke 22:54

- Having arrested him, they led him and brought him into the high priest's house. But Peter followed at a distance.
- Did Peter ever shrink back? Peter was always in the front.
- Let me emphasize this is a warning sign.
- Be bold enough, loving and compassionate, but bold enough to go and say, I love you. And I hope I'm seeing this wrong.

4 Peter Sat Among Them

Luke 22:55; Psalm 1:1

- Now when they had kindled a fire in the midst of the courtyard and sat down together, Peter sat among them.
- If we separate ourselves from the Lord, and many times from the Lord's people, it is the natural next step that we get closer to the world, things of the world.
- Where a void is created, it will be filled with something.
- Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful.

5 Peter Denied: I Do Not Know This Man

Mark 14:66–71

- Peter's going to do exactly what our Lord said he was going to do, exactly what Peter so sternly said, I'll never do.
- You also were with Jesus of Nazareth. But he denied it, saying, I neither know nor understand what you were saying.
- The untimeliness of that rooster crowing was not enough to jar Peter into the reality of what was going on here.
- Then he began to curse and swear. I do not know this man whom you speak.
- If he'd only seen where he made the wrong turn, he could have avoided being lost.

6 The Sorrow of What He Had Done

Luke 22:61–62

- And the Lord turned and looked at Peter. And Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said to him before the rooster crows, you'll deny me three times.
- So Peter went out and wept bitterly. The last step in Peter's fall was the sorrow of what he had done.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **Where are you? Where did you make the wrong turn? And what do you need to do to return?**

MY NOTES