Spiritual Failure and Jesus' Grace

Luke 22:47-62
January 12, 2024

The Big Idea: After an intense time of prayer with His disciples Jesus sees the spiritual struggles of His friends. Jesus' heart is always for the gracious restoration of those who will acknowledge their sins and turn to Him with full trust.

Luke 22:47-62 (ESV)

22 47 While he was still speaking, there came a crowd, and the man called Judas, one of the twelve, was leading them. He drew near to Jesus to kiss him, 48 but Jesus said to him, "Judas, would you betray the Son of Man with a kiss?" 49 And when those who were around him saw what would follow, they said, "*Lord, shall we strike with the sword*?" 50 And one of them struck the servant of the high priest and *cut off his right ear*. 51 But Jesus said, "No more of this!" And *he touched his ear and healed him*.

52 Then Jesus said to the chief priests and officers of the temple and elders, who had come out against him, "Have you come out as against a robber, with swords and clubs? 53 When I was with you day after day in the temple, you did not lay hands on me. But this is your hour, and *the power of darkness*."

54 Then *they seized him* and led him away, bringing him into the high priest's house, and Peter was following at a distance. 55 And when they had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and sat down together, Peter sat down among them. 56 Then a servant girl, seeing him as he sat in the light and looking closely at him, said, "This man also was with him." 57 *But he denied it*, saying, "Woman, *I do not know him*." 58 And a little later someone else saw him and said, "You also are one of them." But Peter said, "Man, I am not." 59 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."

60 But Peter said, "Man, I do not know what you are talking about." And immediately, *while he was still speaking, the rooster crowed*. 61 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." 62 *And he went out and wept bitterly.*

A Night of Spiritual Failures

- ◊ Judas – Failing Through Pretending
- ◊ The Disciples – Failure Through Trying to Do God's Work Their Way
- ◊ Religious leaders – Failure Through Refusal to See Who He Is
- ◊ Peter – Failing Through Presumption

Causes of Spiritual Failure

1. Refusal to submit to the hard teachings of Scripture. [Mark 8:31-32]
2. Pride that flows from more confidence in ourselves than confidence in Jesus. [Mark 14:29; 1 Peter 5:6]
3. The destructive and persistent attacks of the Evil One. [1 Peter 5:8b]
4. Spiritual laziness and dullness. [Luke 22:46; 1 Peter 5:8a]
5. A habit of responding to situations in the flesh not in the Spirit. [Luke 22:50, 57]

The Way Back to the Lord

- Receive His Grace
- Repent of Sin
- Respond in Faith
- Rest in the Father's Hand [John 10:27-30]

"My memory is nearly gone, but I remember two things: that I am a great sinner, and that Christ is a great Savior."
- John Newton