

The Wednesday Word, January 18, 2017: Tell Peter

“But go your way, tell his disciples and Peter that he goeth before you into Galilee: there shall ye see him, as he said unto you (Mark 16:7).”

As a believer, have you ever blown it? I mean royally blown it? Have you ever failed God, failed the Gospel, failed your family, or failed yourself?

As a result, you suspect that there is no longer a place for you in the Lord’s affections. If so, this message is for you.

Do you remember Peter? He was quite a remarkable man.

The Lord gave him a new name and told him to become a “fisher of men.” He walked on water. He experienced the incredible event of Jesus’ transfiguration. And it was Peter who was the first to confess that Jesus was the Christ, the Messiah.

What a stellar ministry... so full of promise. But, suddenly, Peter crashed with an unceremonious wallop.

It might be helpful at this point if we paint the scene of this major failure. Jesus has just been arrested and taken to the Palace of the High Priest. Almost all of His disciples had run away in fear for their lives. Two of them, however, Peter and another (probably John), followed behind the mob as they escorted Jesus to the kangaroo court.

Having, with John’s help, gained admittance into the compound, Peter now warms himself at a fire in the Palace courtyard, (Luke 22: 55). Suddenly, he is approached by a woman (John 18:17) who identifies him as one of the Lord’s disciples. When he hears her words, Peter immediately denies any connection with the Saviour basically saying, “I don’t know what you are talking about! You’re crazy!” Then he walks away, (Matthew 26:71). Almost immediately, another girl sees him and calls out, “This is one of them!” (Verse 71).

Again, Peter denies all ties to his saviour. In Matthew 26:72, we see that Peter now resorts to denying the Lord with an “oath.” In other words, Peter swore before heaven that he did not know Jesus. He may have said something like: “I promise before God and swear to Him that I’m not lying, I do not know Jesus of Nazareth!”

What a tragedy! This time Peter doubles his lie count. He lied when he denied knowing Jesus and lied when he swore that he wasn’t lying!

An hour passes (Luke 22:58). Peter is approached for the third time by a delegation of sorts. He is again accused of being one of the Lord’s disciples. Peter’s Galilean accent has betrayed him. This group of accusers was led by a relative of Malchus whose ear Peter had cut off when Jesus had been arrested. When the apostle hears this allegation, he loses control and begins to “curse and to swear” (Matthew 26:74). His tongue becomes vile and vulgar. He calls God to be his witness that he doesn’t know Jesus.

Oh, how are the mighty fallen!

Notice the progression (or regression). First Peter lies. Then he tells a second lie to cover up the first lie. Then he tries to prove his lies by cursing and taking God's name in vain.

Watch out Peter! God's going to get you!

Sleep with one eye open Peter!

You're a failure Peter!

If you'd been a stronger man Peter!

You're not fit to be an apostle Peter!

Such nonsense!

Listen to me! Peter was a man of God. He loved the Lord, but he failed. Get used to it! And when he failed it broke and humbled him (Luke 22:62).

It's no wonder that we learn of his invitation to meet the Master in Galilee. This is grace in operation. "Tell the disciples and Peter. Make sure you tell Peter. Whatever else you do, let Peter know that he's welcome."

But Peter has failed you!

Yes, and be sure to tell Peter that He's welcome.

But he's let you down.

And?...be sure to tell Peter

Listen to me: if the bad news is that you've spiritually failed, the good news is that there are both grace and restoration waiting for you in Christ Jesus.

And that's the Gospel Truth!