



Shepherd's Path

A Shepherd's Personal Devotions

Signs on Believers' Highway, Lesson 46

Lesson Title: Jesus' Arrest and Peter's Denial

Take Home Point: Jesus is faithful—even when we are not.

Warm-Up:

I learned an extremely valuable lesson some years ago, and I have never forgotten it. My youngest daughter was about 8 years old. I had made a promise to her regarding something that was very important to her, and naturally I was quite serious about keeping that promise. But what I promised her was something I could not do for her all by myself. I did not consider that a problem at the time; however, the other person upon whom I depended did not come through as expected. So I had to tell my daughter I couldn't keep the promise I had made. She was crushed...and angry. I explained to her as best I could that it wasn't up to just me, but that did little to console a child of that age. Ever since then I have been very careful to try not to make a promise I couldn't keep. Sometimes with her, even all these years later, I still use the phrase, "I'm not going to make a promise I can't keep." She knows exactly what I mean.

Read: John 16:25 – 18:27; Hebrews 10:23

Observation (What happened?):

For whom did Jesus pray?

Which disciple witnessed Peter's denials?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

Why do you think Peter denied his Lord the three times?

Why do you think Jesus waited until this time to speak as plainly as he did?

Insight:

If no other truth is gleaned from the Bible, we should certainly be able to get the message that God is faithful, even when we are not. From beginning to end, God tells us and reminds us. Early in the Bible, in Deuteronomy 7:9, when he first gives his commands to Israel, God says, *"Know therefore that the LORD your God is God; he is the faithful God, keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commands."* (NIV) At the very end of the Scriptures, in Revelation 19:11 and 19, John writes, *"I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. ...On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS."* In between we are assured of his faithfulness. *"The LORD is faithful to all his promises."* (Psalm 145:13) *"If we are faithless, he will remain faithful, for he cannot disown himself."* (2 Timothy 2:13)

Application (What does it mean to me?):

How did you feel when you denied Jesus by your words, actions, or silence? What did you do about it?

Name one circumstance in which Jesus has shown himself faithful to you this week. Thank him for his faithfulness.

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