

Series "Knowing The Exact Truth"
"Falling From Grace"
Luke 22:54-62
Study-95

Falling From Grace – (Christian Concept) *"to sin and get on the wrong side of God, to revert to bad behavior after a period of good behavior."*

This passage is recorded in all four Gospels:

Matthew 26:69-75; Mark 14:66-72; Luke 22:54-62; John 18:25-27

Important Lesson: **"Failure Is Never The End Of The Story!"**

The Thought Of Our Passage: "Falling From Grace Can Be Traced Back To An Ignorance, Or Disregard, For What God Has Said"

1. Verses 31-55 Peter's Errors:
2. Verses 56-62 Peter's Fall:

1. Verses 31-55 Peter's Errors:

Peter Commits Six Errors That Commonly Lead to Failure.

1. Verses 31-34 Peter's Self-Confidence:

Possibly a few hours earlier, Jesus had said to Peter: Luke 22:31 ("Simon, Simon) **Two times** Jesus attempted yet again to get Peter's attention.

Luke 22:32-33

Peter is not only bragging, but I believe he is sincerely presumptuous. Proverbs 16:18

The Great Lesson: Don't Trust in Yourself!

Peter's Self-Confidence Led Him To Look Down On His Fellow Disciples: Mark 14:29

Jesus Even Puts A Timetable On Peter's Denial: Luke 22:34, John 13:36-38

We find that our weaknesses are really our strengths. Isaiah 40:30-31

2. Mark 14:30-31 Peter's Disregard For God's Word: (Jesus' Warning) Mark 14:30-31

But Peter kept saying insistently, "exceedingly vehemently," speaking to excess with flowing words and firm gestures.

Peter should have humbled himself and asked for Jesus' help

"Even if I have to die with You, I will not deny You!" Peter Ignored Zechariah 13:7

**Don't Argue with The Word of God! 1 Corinthians 6:9-10;
1 Corinthians 15:33 Do not be deceived; Galatians 6:7
Do not be deceived, James 1:16 Do not be deceived,**

Had Peter listened to Jesus and received His Word, he would not have denied Jesus three times. **He would have fallen away, but the denial would not have happened.**

3. Verses 45-46 Peter's Prayerlessness: He did not pray:
Luke 22:45-46

1st Time Peter Is Caught Sleeping: Mark 14:37-38 "Simon" - his name given by man. **"Peter"** was his spiritual name given to him by Jesus. (Peter was acting like the old man, Simon.)

Mark 14:38 "Keep watching (A Mind That Is Alert) and praying, (Spiritually Awake) 1 Corinthians 10:13

The Flesh Is Weak: the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak."
Our **flesh** - old nature, the natural man bent in sin.

Mark 14:40 2nd Time Peter Is Caught Sleeping:
And again He came and found them sleeping, it is now after 2:00 AM to 3:00 AM and celebrated Passover,

for their eyes were very heavy;
Their eyes were weighed down with sleep, for their hearts had not been filled with prayer.

Mark 14:41 3rd Time Peter Is Caught Sleeping:
"Are you still sleeping and taking your rest?"
Pride had kept them from the hour of testing; they were not vigilant.

Luke 22:45 found them sleeping from sorrow, Sleep is a tranquilizer

4. Verses 49-51 Peter Fought When He Should Have Surrendered:
Luke 22:49-50

John 18:10 Simon Peter therefore having a sword, drew it,

Zeal Without Knowledge: This is Peter's attempt to serve in the energy of the flesh. **2 Corinthians 10:4**

When we try to do God's will in our flesh, people get hurt. Mark 14:31

How characteristic of a person not in the Word and Prayer!

Luke 22:51 He touched his ear and healed him. Last miracle of Jesus.

5. Verse 54 Peter Followed When He Should Have Fled For Safety: Luke 22:54 but Peter was following at a distance.

Theological Oxymoron *"one cannot follow Jesus as a disciple at a distance."*

Jesus had expressly commanded the disciples not to follow: **John 18:8**

Luke 22:54 and brought Him to the house of the high priest; Jesus was taken to **Annas**, the former high priest (**John 18:12-13**).

Annas sent Jesus to Caiaphas, his son-in-law, who was the official high priest (**Matthew 26:57**). Finally, at daybreak, He was tried before the Sanhedrin and found guilty (**Luke 22:66-71**).

Our Lord endured six different "trials" three trials were Ecclesiastical (Charging Jesus with Blasphemy, He was God); three trials were Civil (Charging Jesus with Treason, He was King)

but Peter was following at a distance. We are watching Peter in his downward spiral

6. Verse 55 Peter Sat With The Wrong Crowd: Luke 22:55 Here Peter was with those that had just arrested Jesus, and now he is warming himself next to them.

Matthew 26:58 and sat down with the officers to see the outcome. (**Psalm 1 Walk, Stand, Sit**)

2. Verses 56-62 Peter's Fall:

Peter's Denial of Jesus was the result of a Series of Errors.

1st Denial Of Knowing Jesus: Verses 56-57 Luke 22:56 **And a certain servant-girl, seeing him as he sat in the firelight,** a servant of the high priest.

and looking intently at him, said, "This man was with Him too." The realization that we are being watched should keep us accountable.

Luke 22:57 But he denied it, saying, "Woman, I do not know Him." (Denial of knowing Jesus) denied it – used in the early church, "to abandon the faith."

2nd Denial Of Following Jesus: Verse – 58 Luke 22:58 and said, "You are one of them too!" But Peter said, "Man, I am not!"
Which led to the second lie. **(Denial of being a disciple)**

3rd Denial Of Knowing The Truth About Jesus:
Verses 59-60: Luke 22:59 John 18:26 relative of Malchus

"Certainly, this man also was with Him, for he is a Galilean too."

Luke 22:60 I do not know what you are talking about." (Denial of the truth) "I don't know or comprehend what you are talking about" Mark 14:71 But he began to curse and swear,

Luke 22:61 The Lord turned and looked at Peter.
(Only Luke) This was the look of love!

Luke 22:62 wept bitterly. Peter's Sorrow, Remorse/Repentance Leads To God's Great Forgiveness!

Luke 22:32 once you have turned again, strengthen your brothers."

God would use Peter's failure in the making of a spiritual man. A sinner that could strengthen other sinners. 2 Peter 1:12

John 21 Peter is restored to ministry and service.
Acts 1-12 Peter is the man of the New Testament Church.

Application:

1. God's Word Applies To Me:
2. Guard Against Prayerlessness:
3. Beware of Confidence in One's Strength:
4. Building Relationships with The Right Crowd:
5. Many Sin Like David And Peter But Have Not Repented Like David And Peter: