

Life and Ministry of Jesus Christ

Jesus Foretells Peter's Denial

Last time...Jesus gave the remaining 11 disciples a new commandment
Love one another, as I have loved you.

A love that is far greater than human love,
A love with no strings attached,
A love we must receive from God and then give to others...as freely as we received,
The love of God's heart and nature

This time...Jesus foretells of Peter's denial and the abandonment by all 11,
which will bear witness of the Divine nature of the love of the new commandment
i.e. they will not be able to love Jesus as He loves them, much less love each other as
Jesus loves them

The scene is still the large upper room during the Passover meal
We will be in all 4 Gospels

John 13:36-38

v36 Simon Peter...not follow Me now...afterwards:

Peter, always quick to speak, responds to Jesus' remark in v33
Where are You going?

Jesus does not answer Peter's question.

He does however elaborate a little on what He had said

Peter and the other 10 cannot follow Jesus...now

Peter and the other 10 will follow...later

Where is Jesus going?

1. the Cross
2. the grave
3. Heaven

Later, Peter will go to

1. a cross: Church tradition is Peter was crucified in Rome in 66AD,
upside down, per his request (not worthy to die as his Lord did)
2. the grave...his body will be buried
3. Heaven: 2 Cor 5:7

v37 Why cannot I:

Jesus has repeatedly told His disciples that He would be betrayed into the hands of His enemies, killed, buried, and raised on the 3rd day.

Yet all of those things are unthinkable and fly in the face of the disciples' Messianic hope (kingdom now)

Now with Jesus talking of being betrayed this night and saying that He is leaving them, the mood in the upper room is very somber

Peter even proclaims he will give his life for Jesus
(and His soon-to-be-established kingdom)

Peter's declaration sounds selfless, but it is in reality a prideful boast

v38 Will you...denied Me thrice:

Will Peter lay his life down for Jesus' sake?

Yes...but not this day

This day, he will

- flee...abandon Jesus (Matt 26:56)
- deny that he even knows Jesus

Peter will Matt 16:24...but not this day

Peter will lay down his life for Jesus' sake...but first he must be humbled, broken, born-again, made a new creature, be a partaker of the afflictions of the Gospel (2 Tim 1:8) before he will be faithful unto death

Mark 14:27-31

v27 All ye shall be offended...scattered:

Recorded in Mark and Matthew but not in John and Luke:

Jesus tells the remaining 11 that they will be

- offended/stumbled/tripped up/enticed to fall away
- because of Him
- this night...before the sun rises

They are going to abandon Him rather than stand with Him...
in a matter of hours

Which, by the foreknowledge of God, was prophesied and written by the prophet Zechariah about 520 years previously, and quoted by Jesus now.

Zech 13:7 will be fulfilled tonight

I...the LORD
will smite...fatally strike (just as Jesus has repeatedly foretold)
the shepherd...John 10:11, 17-18
and the sheep...the 11
shall be scattered...will flee

v28 after that I am risen...Galilee:

As certain as Jesus' betrayal, death, and burial is...His Resurrection!
The glorious end of the story is Resurrection

So after Jesus is risen, He will precede them into Galilee
Why Galilee?
Hold that thought

v29 Although all...not I:

Pounding his self-righteous chest before Jesus, Peter denies that he will be
offended/stumbled, boasting that he will be the "last man standing",
ever-faithful

v30 deny Me thrice:

Jesus gently sets the record straight – God's Word will be accomplished,
not boastful man's

In fact, whereas the 11 will flee/scatter/abandon their Lord, proud Peter will also
deny Him;

Why will Peter deny his Lord?
Hold that thought also

v31 more vehemently...said they all:

With this shocking piece of news-in-advance, Peter amped up his denial of
impending cowardice and unfaithfulness with booming self-confidence

"No way! (Disputing the written and spoken word of the Lord)
I will die with You (hmmm, he has heard what Jesus has repeatedly said)
before I deny You!"

And...the other 10 joined in the chorus
"We will not leave nor forsake You."

Also refuting the written and spoken word of the Lord and brimming with
self-confidence

Matt 26:31-35

v31-33 never:

The additional information recorded in Matthew vs Mark is the emphatic nature of Peter's declaration
"...will I NEVER be offended."

Be very careful of using the word "never" when speaking with the Lord!

I will never go to a Muslim nation!
He sent me to Egypt

I don't know if I'm coming back but I am never bringing my wife here!
The Lord sent me and Monica the 8 months later

I don't know if we are coming back but we are never bringing our kids here and we will never come back in July!
I brought first Nathan and then Monica/Nathan/Kathryn/Matthew in subsequent years...in July

When we say "Never" to the Lord of all, we stand before Him in the strength of our flesh and say "I am lord of my life."
He will challenge such an assertion

v34-35 Peter...all the disciples:

The confidence of the 11 disciples is...in their flesh, not in the Word of God

Phil 3:3 worship God in the spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh
(in which is no good thing, Rom 7:18)

Self-confidence vs God-confidence...independence vs utter dependence
Something that plagued Israel

Something that has plagued the Church from its earliest days until this day
Gal 3:3 Are ye so foolish? having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh?

Luke 22:31-38

v31-32 Satan hath desired you...as wheat:

Question: Why will Peter deny his Lord?

This part of the conversation is recorded only in Luke's account

Satan found a willing target in Judas, who was responsible for the money bag;
he wants another target

Satan has desired...Satan asked permission to test/tempt Peter, to separate him
from Jesus

Satan must get permission from the Creator God

The accuser of the brethren (Rev 12:10) is roaring and roaming looking to
attack and devour (1 Peter 5:8) but he can do only as he is allowed
to do (Job)

Why does Satan ask for Peter?

Peter is the "loud mouth leader" of the disciples and
one of Jesus' Inner Circle

But I have prayed for you:

Jesus is well aware of Satan's desire to target another of His sheep and is aware
that permission has been granted

But..."I have prayed for you."

Jesus did NOT pray that Peter escape this trial, He prayed that Peter would

- stand after the trial (Eph 6:10-18)
- grow in faith because of the trial
- be broken of his prideful self-confidence and independence,
converted and become as a little child
- strengthen the other 10, and many others, in their time of trial

Question: Why will Jesus go before the 11 to Galilee after He is risen?

To restore His broken friend the fisherman and make him a fisher of men

John 21:1-3, 14-19

Acts 1:15

Acts 2:14, 41

Acts 3:6, 12, 19

Acts 4:8-13, 19-20

Acts 5:17-20, 29-32, 40-42

2 Tim 1:8-9

No more fleeing, no more denying, but first brokenness is required

v33 I am ready to go...prison...death:

This strikes me as a very bold and prideful statement

“Satan has asked to sift you like wheat.”

“I am ready.”

Wow!

On our very best day, when we are at our very strongest, we are no match for Satan!

Eph 6:10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might

1 Cor 10:12 Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall

2 Cor 12:9-12 he said unto me, **My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness.** Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong

Strong in the Lord

No confidence in the flesh

His Strength in our weakness

Peter must learn these things, he will learn...the hard way

We must learn these things, we will learn...the hard way

v34 thrice deny that you know me:

In spite of his boasting, Peter won't even make it thru the day before he denies even knowing his Lord, of whom he has said:

Matt 16:16 Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God

John 6:68-69 Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life. And we believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God.

Now, another part of the conversation recorded only in Luke

v35-37 When I sent you...lacked ye anything...nothing:

The nature and scope of the ministry is changing, so Jesus' sending of His disciples is changing

Jesus has previously sent His disciples to the lost sheep of Israel in "welcoming" circumstances

1. In the 2nd year of ministry, in Galilee, He sent the 12, 2 by 2
Matt 10:1-10 ff
2. In the 3rd year of His ministry, in Perea, He sent 70, 2 by 2
Luke 10:1-9, 17-20

"Did you lack anything when I sent you?"
"Nothing."

Now,

- the circumstances are hostile
- they will be sent...to the whole world
(Acts 1:8, to the Jew first and then the Gentile)

Jesus quotes Is 53:12

Words of God regarding His Suffering Servant/Messiah were written therefore they WILL come to pass

The world is about to take a very violent turn against Jesus, as was foreknown by the Creator God from before the foundation of the world

The Good Shepherd is "tending" His sheep...preparing them for things written about Him (John 5:39), culminating this day with John 19:30

So the instructions are different

- Take your money, "Middle Eastern hospitality" will not be found in places I am sending you
- Protect yourselves; be wise and trust the Lord

v38 two swords...It is enough:

There in the large upper room prepared for their Passover meal are...2 swords.

11 disciples, 2 swords
"It is enough."

11 men cannot go to war with the world with 2 swords;
are 2 swords enough to protect 11 men?

As will be revealed,

- they will be sent to fight the good fight of faith
 - 1 Tim 6:12
- they are to endure the hardness of their calling like good soldiers
 - 2 Tim 2:3-4
- the weapons of their warfare are radically different than the weapons of the world's warfare
 - 2 Cor 10:3-5
 - Eph 6:17-18 Word/Sword of Spirit and prayer
 - Heb 4:12

Important Lessons

1. Jesus laid His life down for me; will I lay my life down for Him?
Will I deny and flee or will I stand?

Jesus was not ashamed to be called my Brother (Heb 2:11); am I ashamed of Him
i.e. too fearful to speak His name and to be His ambassador?

Matt 16:24

2 Tim 4:1-8

2. "Never"

Self-confidence vs God-confidence

Phil 3:3

Ecc1 5:1-7

3. Satan is roaring like a lion seeking whom he may devour; how can I fight against him?
The weapons of spiritual warfare (2 Cor 10:3-5, Eph 6:10-18)
Resist with humility (James 4:6-10)
"in Jesus' name"

4. "I have prayed for you"
Rom 8:26-39

The Lord is our strength

5. "Lacked you anything?"
Nothing
So be anxious for nothing