

Peter: Failure & Forgiveness
FAILURE & FORGIVENESS

Monday, October 19

Reading: Luke 22:24-34

Luke 22:31 *"Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift all of you as wheat. 32 But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers."* **33** But he replied, "Lord, I am ready to go with You to prison and to death." **34** Jesus answered, "I tell you, Peter, before the rooster crows today, you will deny three times that you know Me."

Motivational speaker Denis Waitley once said, "Failure should be our teacher, not our undertaker. Failure is delay, not defeat. It is a temporary detour, not a dead end. Failure is something we can avoid only by saying nothing, doing nothing, and being nothing."¹

None of us like to fail! Perhaps one reason we love the story of Simon Peter so much is because it is one of failure and forgiveness. After his great confession of faith, Peter failed to understand Jesus' mission and rebuked the Savior about the cross. Peter will continue to misunderstand Jesus' mission as they journey to Jerusalem. He and the other disciples often engaged in quarrels about which of them was the greatest. Later, at the time Jesus needed him most, Peter will deny his Lord three times.

But Christ's love and grace would forgive and restore His wayward apostle and prepare him to be a rock of the early church. Failure was not the end of Peter's usefulness for Christ. It was the beginning!

LESSON: As we study Peter's failures and restoration in this 2nd week, we should remember that we all fail Christ. But this does not mean He cannot restore and use us for His glory. How have you failed Jesus in your life? What did those failures teach you? How did they help you grow? How did Jesus use them for good and for His glory.

¹ https://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/denis_waitley_125740