

Morning Sermon March 1, 2015

"The Fall of Peter"

Luke 22:31-34; Luke 22:50-63

I. Realize, that (by nature) none of us are THAT far from Judas –

1. We would like to think we are the FAR OPPOSITE of Judas, and by grace hopefully we will be, yet by nature we share a SIN NATURE with the worst of mankind!

A. We want to be as Peter exclaimed –

"Lord, I am ready to go with You, both to prison and to death." (Luke 22:33 NKJ)

B. But in REALITY we are all sinners –

¹⁰ As it is written: "There is none righteous, no, not one;

¹¹ There is none who understands; There is none who seeks after God. (Romans 3:10-11 NKJ)

²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, (Romans 3:23 NKJ)

2. If we compare ourselves to Judas, Hitler, ISIS Killers, we might think ourselves bright, godly and near perfect in comparison...

3. Yet, if we compare ourselves to Jesus Christ, we will see ourselves as exceedingly sinful in comparison.

II. Realize Jesus has a perfect understanding of who we are and what we do (or even will do)

1. See Him as the All-knowing God – Jesus predicts Peter's fall perfectly, including details, compare Luke 22:34 to Luke 22:54-61

³⁴ Then He said, "I tell you, Peter, the rooster shall not crow this day before you will deny three times that you know Me." (Luke 22:34 NKJ)

⁵⁴ Having arrested Him, they led Him and brought Him into the high priest's house. But Peter followed at a distance. ⁵⁵ Now when they had kindled a fire in the midst of the courtyard and sat down together, Peter sat among them.

⁵⁶ And a certain servant girl, seeing him as he sat by the fire, looked intently at him and said, "This man was also with Him." ⁵⁷ (FIRST DENIAL) But he denied Him, saying, "Woman, I do not know Him." (Second Denial) ⁵⁸ And after a little while another saw him and said, "You also are of them." But Peter said, "Man, I am not!" ⁵⁹ Then after about an hour had passed, another confidently affirmed, saying, "Surely this fellow also was with Him, for he is a Galilean." (Third Denial) ⁶⁰ But Peter said, "Man, I do not know what you are saying!" (Rooster Crowing) Immediately, while he was still speaking, the rooster crowed. ⁶¹ And the Lord turned and looked at Peter. And Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how He had said to him, "Before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times." (Luke 22:54-61 NKJ)

This proves Jesus' Deity –

⁹ Remember the former things of old, For I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like Me, ¹⁰ Declaring the end from the beginning, And from ancient times things that are not yet done, (Isaiah 46:9-10 NKJ)

2. See Him as in Authority over Satan (and knowledgeable of his stratagems)

³¹ And the Lord said, "Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat. (Luke 22:31 NKJ)

This is what we also see in Job 1 & 2 Satan seeking permission of God regarding tempting someone! Christ knew about this in regard to Peter ...

3. See Him as double knowledgeable of your human weaknesses and compassionate in regard to them –

²⁴ But Jesus did not commit Himself to them, because He knew all men, ²⁵ and had no need that anyone should testify of man, for He knew what was in man. (John 2:24-3:1 NKJ)

¹⁴ Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, ¹⁵ and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage. ¹⁶ For indeed He does not give aid to angels, but He does give aid to the seed of Abraham.

¹⁷ Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. ¹⁸ For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted. (Hebrews 2:14-18 NKJ)

¹² As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us. ¹³ As a father pities *his* children, So the LORD pities those who fear Him. ¹⁴ For He knows our frame; He remembers that we *are* dust. (Psalm 103:12-14 NKJ)

III. Realize the falls of a true believer are not ultimately falls from grace –

³² "But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to *Me*, strengthen your brethren." (Luke 22:32 NKJ)

¹⁶ For a righteous *man* may fall seven times and rise again, (Proverbs 24:16 NKJ)

1. *God (Jesus) knows the Way of the righteous, even when we turn the wrong way ...*

⁶ For the LORD knows the way of the righteous, But the way of the ungodly shall perish. (Psalm 1:6 NKJ)

2. *He knows EVEN our mistakes and missteps and can use even those faulty steps to help others -*

and when you have returned to *Me*, strengthen your brethren." (Luke 22:32 NKJ)

IV. Realize, God has a purpose, even in our falls - and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren." (Luke 22:32 NKJ)

³ Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We are going with you also." They went out and immediately got into the boat, and that night they caught nothing. ⁴ But when the morning had now come, Jesus stood on the shore; yet the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. ⁵ Then Jesus said to them, "Children, have you any food?" They answered Him, "No." ⁶ And He said to them, "Cast the net on the right side of the boat, and you will find *some*." So they cast, and now they were not able to draw it in because of the multitude of fish. ⁷ Therefore that disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" Now when Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on *his* outer garment (for he had removed it), and plunged into the sea. ⁸ But the other disciples came in the little boat (for they were not far from land, but about two hundred cubits), dragging the net with fish.

⁹ Then, as soon as they had come to land, they saw a fire of coals there, and fish laid on it, and bread. ¹⁰ Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish which you have just caught."

¹¹ Simon Peter went up and dragged the net to land, full of large fish, one hundred and fifty-three; and although there were so many, the net was not broken. ¹² Jesus said to them, "Come *and* eat breakfast." Yet none of the disciples dared ask Him, "Who are You?"-- knowing that it was the Lord. ¹³ Jesus then came and took the bread and gave it to them, and likewise the fish. ¹⁴ This *is* now the third time Jesus showed Himself to His disciples after He was raised from the dead. ¹⁵ So when they had eaten breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, *son* of Jonah, do you love Me more than these?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." He said to him, "Feed My lambs." ¹⁶ He said to him again a second time, "Simon, *son* of Jonah, do you love Me?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." He said to him, "Tend My sheep." ¹⁷ He said to him the third time, "Simon, *son* of Jonah, do you love Me?" Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, "Do you love Me?" And he said to Him, "Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You." Jesus said to him, "Feed My sheep. (John 21:3-17 NKJ)

Three times Peter denied Christ; three times Jesus asked Peter "Do you LOVE me" Love being "agape" Self-sacrificing, willing to die for You, because I am your closest best follower...

Was Peter who he claimed to be in Luke 22:33 –

³³ But he said to Him, "Lord, I am ready to go with You, both to prison and to death." (Luke 22:33 NKJ)

But Peter answered three times with the Greek work phileo, which means family love, brotherly love, BECAUSE of WHO YOU are LORD I LOVE You!

Peter learned his lesson, He loved Jesus not because he Peter was a great lover, but because his LORD Jesus was irresistibly LOVELY!

He saw that loveliness in:

1. *Jesus' forgiveness*
2. *Jesus restoring him to useful ministry and service*
3. *Jesus using him Peter in the salvation of others (Acts 2, 4, etc...)*

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