

**MATTHEW:
THE GOSPEL
OF THE KINGDOM**

A Tale of Two Disciples
Matthew 26:69-27:10

1

Introduction:

- Question: What is the ultimate mark of a true disciple of Jesus in this life?
- Faith in Jesus Christ?
 - Fruit of the Holy Spirit?
 - Holiness?
 - Love for God/neighbor?
- I would suggest that *with* all these things, the ultimate evidence is perseverance.
- Despite the ups and downs, successes and failures, righteousness and sin, a continued return to Jesus.

2

The Failures of Peter - v.69-74

Now Peter was sitting outside *in the courtyard*. And a servant girl came up to him and said, "You also were with Jesus the *Galilean*." But he *denied* it before them all, saying, "I do not know what you mean."

And when he went out to *the entrance*, another servant girl saw him, and she said to the bystanders, "This man was with Jesus of *Nazareth*." And again he denied it *with an oath*: "I do not know the man."

After a little while the bystanders came up and said to Peter, "Certainly you too are one of them, for your *accent* betrays you." Then he began to *invoke a curse* [on himself] and to *swear*, "I do not know the man."

3

The Response of Peter - v.75

And immediately the rooster crowed. And Peter remembered the saying of Jesus, "Before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times."

And he *went out* and *wept bitterly*.

4

The Transfer of Powers - v.1-2

When morning came, all the chief priests and the elders of the people *took counsel* against Jesus to put him to death.

And they bound him and led him away and delivered him over *to Pilate* the governor.

5

The Betrayer's Regret - v.3-5

Then when Judas, his *betrayer*, saw that Jesus was condemned, he *changed his mind* and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and the elders, saying, "I *have sinned* by betraying *innocent* blood."

They said, "What is that to us? See to it yourself."
And *throwing down* the pieces of silver into the temple, he *departed*, and he went and *hanged* himself.

6

The Leaders' Hypocrisy - v.6-10

But the chief priests, taking the pieces of silver, said, "It is *not lawful* to put them into the treasury, since it is blood money."

So they *took counsel* and *bought* with them the potter's field as a burial place for strangers.

Therefore that field has been called the *Field of Blood* to this day.

Then was *fulfilled* what had been spoken by the prophet *Jeremiah*, saying, "And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the price of him on whom a price had been set by some of the sons of Israel, and they gave them for the potter's field, as the Lord directed me."

7

Applications

- Note the *severity* of Peter's fall in light of Mt 10:26-33 and the *magnitude* of the grace of Jesus.
- Notice the similarities of their falls - and the primary difference. 2 Cor 7:10-11
- What are you looking to in your life and the life of others in relation to the evidence of God's saving grace?
- Whatever your feelings, however you measure your present level of holiness, however great your falls, are you returning to Jesus again and again?

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