

“Peter Follows Afar Off” (lesson #9)

**Matthew 26:57-58, 69-75; Mark 14:27-31, 54, 66-72;
Luke 22:54-62; John 18:15-18, 25-27**

1. After the institution of the Lord’s Supper, what assertion of discipleship did Peter make to Jesus (Matt 26:31-35)?

“I will never be made to stumble because of You”

“Even if I have to die with You, I will not deny You”

Peter’s enthusiasm & zeal caught on with the other disciples.

Peter made this statement in total disregard of the Scripture, mainly because it was a reflection on his own commitment.

Later, Peter learned that the “Scripture had to be fulfilled” (**Acts 1:16**).

2. What prophecy did Jesus make of Peter (Matt 26:34; Lk 22:31-34)?

First, Jesus applied a prophecy in Zechariah to the upcoming circumstances (**Read Zech 13:7-10; when? 13:1**).

- **The** prophecy indicated a scattering, a purifying & a gathering.

“You will deny Me three times” before the rooster crows.

Peter would stumble, but he would not fall.

- **Jesus** told Peter *“when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren”* (**Lk 22:32; Jn 21:15-17**).

3. What overt act of “discipleship” did Peter show later (Matt 26:51; Jn 18:8-11)?

Peter drew a sword & struck the servant of the High Priest & cut off his ear (Malchus).

Is there ever a time or circumstance when carnal methods can be used to advance the cause of Christ? (1 Cor 3:1-4; Rom 16:17-18; Matt 5:10-12, 43-48; Lk 12:57ff)

When Jesus drove the moneychangers out of the Temple, was He using carnal methods to advance Truth? **Or** was He exercising His divine prerogative to cleanse His house?

Remember what James & John were told when they wished to call fire from heaven against the Samaritan village (Lk 9:51-56).

4. How did Jesus rebuke him (Matt 26:51-54)?

“All who take the sword will perish by the sword”

Jesus also pointed out that He could summon the hosts of heaven to rescue Him from danger.

He could write “Repent Or Die” in blood in the sky if He wanted to. **He** could manufacture a Personal Presence on this earth that would cause everyone to fall dead in fear.

But His will was to exhibit His love for humanity through teaching, healing, rebuking, dying & sending the Holy Spirit to continue teaching the apostles & the church, & to leave us with a document containing His confirmed will.

5. “Peter followed afar off” (Matt 26:58); this was the first step in his defection. He wanted to “see the end.” Peter shows that a disciple cannot be active in foolish commitment or in being a mere observer. Discuss.

In Peter’s defense, all later disciples have the advantage of learning from his mistakes.

Peter demonstrated “the stony ground” in the parable of the sower (Matt 13).

6. Peter’s following “afar off” put him into the wrong crowd & into a compromising position. Give the 3 steps in his digression (Matt 26:69-75).

1) Lie – 2) Swear – 3) Curse.

Psalm 1:

- 1) Peter “**walked** in the counsel of the ungodly” – he put himself in bad company.
2) “He **stood** in the path of sinners” – he pretended to be one of them.
3) “He **sat** in the seat of scorners” – he reasoned with them so as to settle any doubt that he was one of them.

7. What is the ultimate end of sin (Matt 26:75)?

Terrible grief & anguish of spirit

In Peter’s case it was “godly sorrow” that would lead to repentance (2 Cor 7:10).

APPLICATION:

1. What important lessons of discipleship do we learn from Peter?

#1 – **Do** we sometimes think that we will escape the fulfillment of some Scriptures against ourselves, due to personal feelings & good intentions?

#2 – **Jesus** knows the way we take, & when we are overtaken by sin He wants us to quickly repent, learn from the error & help others avoid such.

#3 – **What** are some examples of carnal methods being used today?

- Popular vote, Mob action, Shouting, Threatening, Scheming

#4 – **We** must carry out the will of our Master in His way. **Human** judgment can be faulty alone when it not subjected to the Lord's will.

#5 – **Merely** observing the labor of the Lord will lead to spiritual ruin. **We** cannot be ashamed of what the world deems "foolishness" ([Rom 1:16](#); [1 Cor 1:21-31](#)).

#6 – **To** offend the properly trained & taught conscience is a sin. **To** fail to consider others in our actions is to sin against Christ ([1 Cor 8:12](#)). **Who** did Peter fail to consider as he stood around the fire in that courtyard?

#7 – **Bitter** remorse is the proper attitude to have toward our sins, even our private sins.

2. Jesus prayed for Peter (Lk 22:31). Did Peter's faith fail? Did Peter "turn again" & did he establish his brethren? How would we apply this personally?

Yes – Yes (Acts 1:15; 2:14; 3:12; 4:8, 19)

Peter, as we would say, more than made up for his offense.

Peter was salvaged through the prayers of Jesus for him.

But Peter tells us later, that is was the "grace" of God working through "the knowledge of God" that became the "divine power" behind the reformation of his life.

2 Pet 1:2-4 – Grace & peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God & of Jesus our Lord, 3 as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life & godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory & virtue, 4 by which have been given to us exceedingly great & precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust (see also 1 Cor 15:10).