

**A Fragile Faith and a Faithful Savior (John 18:15-18, 25-27)**  
**That You May Believe: The Gospel of John**  
**Southern Hills Baptist Church**  
**November 12, 2017**

**WELCOME**

Welcome and happy Sunday. As always I am excited for what God's Word has for us this morning. Go ahead and open up to John 13, which is where we will start in a few minutes. Our primary text will be in John 18, but John 13 sets it up in an important way that we need to see.

**INTRODUCTION**

As we continue our verse-by-verse study of the Gospel of John we are taken to a heartbreaking scene in the life of Peter.

**Jesus' Arrest**

If you recall last week we saw Jesus confronted by His betrayer, Judas, and a band of soldiers in the Garden of Gethsemane. They had come to arrest Jesus. They had no real charges to bring against Him, but that didn't matter because they were not after justice in the arrest of Jesus, they were plotting His murder instead. While the Disciples were ready to fight for Jesus' freedom, Jesus walked willingly to the cross, where He would lay down His life. He talked His Disciples down from a fight and handed Himself over to His enemies.

**Grace: Giving Up His Life**

As Matthew pointed out last week, what we need to take away from this is how **utterly gracious Jesus was towards us in walking towards His death, walking towards the wrath of God for our sins, so that we might be reconciled to God in Him. No one took Jesus' life, He laid it down** as a ransom for many and this started with Jesus being taken to the High Priest where He was going to be put on a sham of a trial. The High Priest was going to question Jesus and look for an opportunity to pin a false charge on Him in order to see Jesus killed through the legal system, It would be a great way to cover their tracks.

As Jesus has been led to the High Priest we see Peter and one other Disciple, likely John, in the High Priest's courtyard, outside of the place where this lie of a trial was to begin.

**Peter's Racing Thoughts**

Try to imagine what Peter is feeling at this point, try to imagine what Peter is thinking. His heart has to be racing.

*"What will become of Jesus? What should I do? What can I do? What is the High Priest up to? What do they want with Jesus? How far will they go to get what they want? Would they come after me next?"*

No doubt, too many questions to count swirled through Peter's head as his stomach churned with nerves and fear overlaid every thought that he had.

As Peter stands in this courtyard, with his heart and his mind racing a million miles an hour, people take notice of Him and remember him as one of the 12 that has been with Jesus.

**A Heartbreaking Scene**

What comes next is heartbreaking to see. What we would hope to see in Peter, the Disciple who had led the other 11 so often, wasn't there. **Instead what we will see is a man with a fragile faith that falls apart as pressure mounts. This is the story of what is likely Peter's greatest failure and it is a sad, but thankfully Peter's story doesn't end on his fragile faith, it ends in transformation by a faithful Savior.** I look forward to seeing all of this with you as we walk through our text this morning.

### OPENING PRAYER

Before we open God's Word, let's pause and ask God to bless the reading and consideration of His Word...

Dear Heavenly Father,

We are thankful for Peter's life, for his ministry. Peter was bold with the Gospel on countless occasions. It is an inspiration. We are also thankful that you recorded these vulnerable moments of failure in Peter's life as well. It communicates something powerful to us. **It shows us that you are a God of forgiveness, a God of second chances.** May we see that and be in awe of you this morning. Fill our hearts with hope. **Our failures don't define us, Jesus' perfect work defines us, your faithfulness defines us.** Help us to learn from Peter's life. May this picture of Peter's fragile faith make our faith stronger by opening our eyes to our desperate need of you every moment of every day. It is you who causes us to persevere. Humble us so that we live out of this reality and that we may not fall in our pride.

We pray these things in Jesus' name for Jesus' glory,  
Amen

### A FRAGILE FAITH (John 13:36-38; 18:15-18, 25-27)

#### Jesus' Prophecy: Denial

Let's turn our attention to John 13:36, which sets up our passage in John 18. While John 13 is 5 chapters earlier than where we are today in our study, it took place mere hours before John 18. Remember, before going to the garden where Jesus was arrested, Jesus and His Disciples were in the upper room together where Jesus was walking through the Farewell Discourse and pouring into His Disciples, preparing them for what is taking place in John 18. In the midst of this Jesus shares a prophecy that Peter is unwilling to believe. Let's pick this up in John 13:36...

#### John 13:36-38

[36] Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, where are you going?" Jesus answered him, "Where I am going you cannot follow me now, but you will follow afterward." [37] Peter said to him, "Lord, why can I not follow you now? I will lay down my life for you." [38] Jesus answered, "Will you lay down your life for me? Truly, truly, I say to you, the rooster will not crow till you have denied me three times.

#### Isaiah 40:8

[8] The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.

#### Going Away

So if you can remember back a couple months when we were in John 13, one of the key messages that Jesus was delivering to His Disciples is that He was going away. The Disciples couldn't fathom this as they expected Him to set up His kingdom there in Jerusalem. What Jesus was going to do, the path that He was going to walk to the cross, would be even more shocking than the Disciples could have ever dreamt up.

So in the midst of this announcement that He is going away, Peter chimes in by trying to understand further.

*Why can't I follow you? I have followed you everywhere. Why couldn't I follow now? I would give up my life for you so where could you travel to that I wouldn't be walking right behind you?*

### **The Prophecy: Denial**

Jesus responds to Peter's claims of devotion with a prophetic word that had to cut Peter to the heart. Jesus says...

*You think you will lay down your life for me? Before morning you will have denied even knowing me 3 times.*

### **Peter's Response: Never!**

We don't get a response from Peter here, but Matthew records one in His Gospel account when Jesus reiterates this prophetic word as they are on their way to the Garden of Gethsemane. Listen to Peter's response as I think we get insight into Peter's state of mind and can learn something important from him...

#### **Matthew 26:30-35**

[30] And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. [31] Then Jesus said to them, "You will all fall away because of me this night. For it is written, 'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.' [32] But after I am raised up, I will go before you to Galilee." [33] Peter answered him, "Though they all fall away because of you, I will never fall away." [34] Jesus said to him, "Truly, I tell you, this very night, before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times." [35] Peter said to him, "Even if I must die with you, I will not deny you!" And all the disciples said the same.

So Peter's response to Jesus' prophecy was to say, "Never, I would die before I let that happen."

### **Relating to Peter**

Now I think I can understand his sentiment, right? I understand where he is coming from. I very well may have the same response that Peter did if Jesus were to tell me that. **I would so desperately not want that to be true that I would deny it and purpose in my heart to do whatever it took to not let that happen.**

### **Questioning God/Pride**

**This is dangerous however.** While we may be able to relate to Peter here, let us not follow in his footsteps. Here is where Peter went wrong... **the man that stood before him and gave this prophetic word was no ordinary man.** Peter knew this. He had confessed Jesus to be the Divine Messiah. **Jesus is God become man, co-equal and co-eternal with God the Father and thus Peter is telling God that He is wrong.**

I understand that Peter wants Jesus to be wrong here. He doesn't want to deny Jesus, **but to tell God, the author of truth and history, that He is wrong is to take a position of pride, it is to put confidence in your wisdom above God's, it is to trust in the flesh.** Peter was telling Jesus that he was going to write a different future than the one that Jesus said was to come.

### **Pride Produces Weak Faith**

Understand this, pride produces a weak, withering faith. Listen to how Paul speaks to this...

## **2 Corinthians 12:9-10**

[9] But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. [10] For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

When we are weak is when we find strength. Why is that? **When we are weak we stop looking to ourselves and we look to Christ.** So the inverse of this statement is true is well. **When we rely on our own strength, when we put our confidence in our strength is when we are weak.** Why? Because our confidence is in ourselves, not in Christ. We move our confidence from the infinite to the finite.

## **Pride Leads to Destruction**

**This is where Peter was.** Jesus told him one thing, you will deny me, but Peter determined within his heart **he would prove Jesus wrong, putting his confidence in Himself.** And where will this lead? Solomon tells us in a well-known verse from Proverbs...

## **Proverbs 16:18-19**

[18] Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall. [19] It is better to be of a lowly spirit with the poor than to divide the spoil with the proud.

Pride brings destruction. Pride is a dangerous place that **has us competing with God for His rightful role.** Pride will leave us weak, it will produce a fragile and withering faith. We will see this in our text. Turn over to John 18.

## **Peter's Fulfillment: Denial**

So as we pick up in John 18 remember that Jesus has been falsely arrested and is being put on a sham trial with false witnesses before the High Priest. Peter and John have followed Jesus to where He is being held and they are hanging around outside to see what would happen next. This is where we pick up...

## **John 18:15-18**

[15] Simon Peter followed Jesus, and so did another disciple. Since that disciple was known to the high priest, he entered with Jesus into the courtyard of the high priest, [16] but Peter stood outside at the door. So the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out and spoke to the servant girl who kept watch at the door, and brought Peter in. [17] The servant girl at the door said to Peter, "You also are not one of this man's disciples, are you?" He said, "I am not." [18] Now the servants and officers had made a charcoal fire, because it was cold, and they were standing and warming themselves. Peter also was with them, standing and warming himself.

## **John 18:25-27**

[25] Now Simon Peter was standing and warming himself. So they said to him, "You also are not one of his disciples, are you?" He denied it and said, "I am not." [26] One of the servants of the high priest, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, asked, "Did I not see you in the garden with him?" [27] Peter again denied it, and at once a rooster crowed.

**And just like that, the man who told Jesus that he would follow Him to His death denied even knowing Jesus 3 times within a matter of minutes, all before the rooster crowed, just as Jesus has prophesied.**

Now I think there are a couple of observations we need to make here.

### **Observation 1: Peter's Pride**

First, let's pick up where we left off... Peter's pride. Pride leads to destruction and a haughty spirit to a fall. When we deem ourselves strong is when we are weak. Peter learned these things the hard way in a critical time.

### **Be Humble**

Brothers and Sisters, **we need to be humble in how we understand our faith.** Peter's response to the idea of denying Jesus was, "Never, not me! No way! No how!" He believed his faith was too strong to fall like that. He believed that he could will his faith through difficulty and pressure. He had no idea that **his perceived strength was a weakness and what he needed was to understand and live out the reality of his weakness.**

### **Lord Jesus, Help Me!**

**Let me suggest a different posture** we ought to take towards our own spiritual state. Rather than having a growing confidence in our own faith we should understand our desperate need for Jesus moment by moment. Rather than thinking, "I got this. My faith won't move no matter what comes." We should constantly be thinking, "**Lord Jesus, help me, keep me, draw me close to you. I need you!**"

### **Questions for Evaluation**

Do you take this posture or are you more like Peter, who believed his faith was strong enough that it could weather the storms of life? Here are a couple of questions to ask yourself to help discover if you are living from a place of dependence or if you are living from a place of deceptive pride.

- Do you primarily see prayer as a helpline to God when big needs arise or do you see it **as life support for your faith**, that without prayer you know you will drift? **Is there desperation in your prayer life?** Do you express **your utter need and dependence** upon God there?
- Do you pick up your Bible for some occasional inspiration or to learn something new or do you see it as the **flashlight you use when you are walking in the black of night along a narrow path on a mountainside?** Are you comfortable going extended periods of time without the Word of God speaking into your life or do you feel **lost and malnourished without it?**
- Do you see the gathering of the church as a nice spiritual pick me up as you head into your week or is it an **essential assembly of the most important spiritual relationships that you have**, come together to worship our Savior and be equipped to live for Him daily?

**Answer these questions, but not with what you think to be the right answer, answer them based off of how you live your life.** If we could play back the last week of your life what would we find? Would we see someone who recognizes their desperate need for Jesus or someone who seems to have things under control on their own? **Be careful, our control is a façade.**

### **Where Do You Find Pride/Lack of Dependence on Christ?**

As I asked myself these questions I recognized some areas in my life where I definitely have some Proud Peter in me and that needs to change.

- Where do you identify pride in yourself?
- Where are you not desperately trusting Jesus enough in your day to day?
- Where can you make changes today to live in greater dependence upon God?

## **Observation 2: It Could Be Any of Us**

I think this is important because of the second observation I want to make about Peter's denial. **Yes, Peter was proud, but let's not forget all of the faith we have seen in Peter throughout Jesus' ministry as well.** Peter was the one to make **bold declarations** about Jesus as the Messiah. Peter often **led the Disciples** in their following of Jesus. Peter stood next to Jesus during **countless miracles** and for **all of His teaching**. Peter wasn't some "Jonny-come-lately" character who denied Jesus as quickly as he confessed faith in him. No, Peter had left his life behind to **follow Jesus for the past 3 years**. Peter was a man of real faith.

## **Not What We Expected from Peter**

To hear the loud, brash, bold Peter deny Jesus is a bit shocking. This isn't what we would have expected from Peter. Yet, here we are, watching him deny Jesus as Jesus sits 100 feet away or so preparing to lay down His life for His sheep.

## **It Could Be You**

My point is this, **if Peter's faith proved to be fragile, if Peter could deny Jesus when placed under pressure, shouldn't we be concerned about our faith as well?** Do you think yourself stronger than Peter? I don't. If Peter fell in this way, shouldn't we recognize that at any given point **we may be moments away from falling** as well? Again, **we see Peter declare he would die before deny Jesus and mere hours later he is saying, "Jesus who? I don't know that man."**

## **Realize Your Weakness**

Brothers and Sisters, **let us realize our weakness and live like we could fall just like Peter**. So what do we do? **We desperately depend upon God and run to Him** through the outlets He has given us.

- We have to pray as if our faith depends on it, because it does.
- We have to run to and read God's Word as if our faith depends on it, because it does.
- We have to pursue Gospel-centered community in the body of Christ as if our faith depends on it, because it does.

## **Rejoice in Weakness**

It isn't those disciplines that will strengthen us, it is how they take us to God that will strengthen us. It is God who strengthens us. We are weak, our faith is fragile, just like Peter's. And the more we see and know our weakness the stronger we become because the more we see our weakness the more we will run to Jesus for strength.

- Prayer will become a daily necessity, not an occasional lifeline.
- God's Word will become the food our souls feast upon and the GPS that guides our steps, not just a Sunday read.
- The church will become brothers and sisters in arms as we fight the power of sin and strive to advance the cause of the Gospel, not a mere social gathering.

So just like Paul from 2 Corinthians 12, we need to rejoice in our weaknesses in order that we may kill our pride, which destroys, and nurture a Godward dependence, which gives life.

**Peter's faith was fragile, so is ours.**

*Jesus, keep us and strengthen us.*

## **Transition**

John doesn't record Peter's response to the fulfillment of this heartbreaking prophecy, but we do get it in Luke's account. Let me read it to you. I will pick up with the 3<sup>rd</sup> denial...

### **Luke 22:60-62**

[60] But Peter said, "Man, I do not know what you are talking about." And immediately, while he was still speaking, the rooster crowed. [61] And the Lord turned and looked at Peter. And Peter remembered the saying of the Lord, how he had said to him, "Before the rooster crows today, you will deny me three times." [62] And he went out and wept bitterly.

Again, Jesus is inside the High Priest's office, but apparently there was a window or some line of sight and as Peter fulfills Jesus' prophecy with his 3<sup>rd</sup> denial of Jesus, just before the rooster crows, Jesus looks over and makes eye contact with Peter.

### **Devastated – Becoming Who He Never Wanted to Be**

**Clearly, Peter was devastated. He had become exactly who he said he wouldn't be.** He said he would die before this took place and yet here he is, having denied Jesus 3 times in Jesus' moment of need. Peter must have felt so lost at this point. He had given up everything to follow Jesus. He had devoted the last 3 years of his life to being at Jesus' side. Now, Jesus was in the hands of the religious leaders, His fate uncertain, and Peter had turned his back on Jesus. **I am sure Peter's tears were tears of sadness at being who he never thought he would become, but they were also full of confusion, questioning himself. Peter clearly didn't know himself as much as he thought he did.**

### **We Are Broken As Well**

**Peter is a broken man at this point, there is no doubt of that. We are all broken** so we should be able to relate to Peter. **We have all had our Peter moments where we have become what we didn't ever want to be, right? We have done things that have caused us to question ourselves and who we are.**

### **The Hope of the Gospel**

This is true of all of us. The good news of the Gospel is that **despite our fragility and weakness we have a faithful Savior.** I am going to cheat a bit and jump ahead a few chapters in John so we can see how Jesus restores broken people like Peter, like you, like me.

### **Context: John 19-20**

Turn over to John 21:15. Let me give you the context for this passage quickly. Now, I hope I am not ruining any surprises for anyone by doing this so **\*\*Spoiler Alert\*\***, Jesus dies at the hands of the religious leaders. It is unjust and gruesome. However, death can't contain God and after 3 days Jesus victoriously rises from the grave, overcoming both sin and death. After His miraculous resurrection Jesus begins appearing to the Disciples at different times to spend time with them and continue to teach them before His ascension to Heaven.

### **Context: Fishing**

John 21:15-19 records one of those events. 7 of the Disciples had decided to go out fishing. They had no luck all night long. Then a man on the shore called out to them and told them to cast their net on the other side of the boat. When they did this their nets were filled with fish so much they couldn't haul in everything they had caught. Upon this miracle the Disciples knew that the man on the shore was Jesus. Peter didn't wait for the boat to row in, he threw himself into the water and swam to Jesus. The other Disciples caught up and they all shared breakfast and morning broke. This is where we pick up in our passage.

## A Faithful SAVIOR

What I want you to pay attention to is how Jesus restores Peter.

### John 21:15-19

[15] When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, 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 a second time, "Simon, son of John, 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 John, 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 everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep. [18] Truly, truly, I say to you, when you were young, you used to dress yourself and walk wherever you wanted, but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will dress you and carry you where you do not want to go." [19] (This he said to show by what kind of death he was to glorify God.) And after saying this he said to him, "Follow me."

### The Restoration of Peter

So remember, Peter had been living with his betrayal of Jesus now for a couple of weeks, but some things have changed. Jesus had arisen from the dead. Peter had already been witness to this great miracle. Nevertheless, **Peter still had to be questioning so much about himself, right? The last time he was in a pressured situation he betrayed Jesus.** Would this kind of thought haunt him for the rest of his life? Would it cause him to be a recluse and make him timid, paralyzed as he questioned himself? Jesus was about to give these men the Great Commission and call them to boldly go proclaim the Gospel to the world. Would Peter be ready for that?

### 3 Questions to Counter 3 Denials

Look at how Jesus interacts with Peter here. He asks Peter 3 questions and this is significant. He asks, "Do you love me?" Peter replies, "Yes, you know I do." Jesus asks again. Peter responds without change. Then Jesus asks once more, which grieves Peter. Peter has to be wondering if he has lost Jesus' trust. But that wasn't the case, **what Jesus was doing here was giving Peter a chance to confess his love for Jesus for every shameful denial that Peter had made on the night of Jesus' trial.**

### A Restorative Work

This was a restorative act from Jesus. Jesus was giving Peter an opportunity to confess his love for Jesus Him, for Jesus, after he had denied even knowing Jesus. **Jesus was inviting Peter to say things that he needed to say. Jesus was building Peter back up after Peter had leveled himself through his pride.**

### Rejoice in Jesus

Let's stop and rejoice over what we are seeing in our Savior. This is such a beautiful picture. **Here we have a man who is broken by his own sin. Jesus looks on him in great love and goes to work restoring him and building him back up.**

This is who we serve! **Surly you have found yourself broken by your own sin before.** While you may question why Jesus would ever give you a second thought, while you may question what value you could ever be to God, **the God that we serve loves to restore fallen sinners. What wonderful new to a room full of sinners, amen?** You can find hope after you've fallen!

### A Bruise Reed Unbroken

Seeing Jesus love Peter in this way reminds me of a prophecy given of Jesus in Isaiah 42...

### **Isaiah 42:3**

[3] a bruised reed he will not break, and a faintly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice.

Jesus saw the bruised reed, the smoldering wick that was Peter and He was gentle and fanned the flame to restore him. Now that isn't to say it was painless. Peter was grieved by the questions. As often is the case Peter didn't seem to totally grasp all that Jesus was up to here, but he would one day.

### **Never Beyond the Long reach of Jesus**

Brothers and Sisters, let me encourage you, **Jesus will do the same work in your life if you will come to Him in humble repentance. There is no sin that can take you beyond the long reach of Jesus' forgiving and restoring hand.** You see, while we may often be faithless towards Jesus, Jesus is always faithful to those who are His.

### **2 Timothy 2:13**

[13] if we are faithless, he remains faithful—for he cannot deny himself.

We are all faithless at times, we are prone to wander, we stray from the loving and wise path of God, yet despite our faithlessness, Jesus will remain forever faithful towards those who are His. It is who He is. He can do no other. Rejoice Brothers and Sisters. Rejoice in the faithfulness of our Savior.

### **The Recommissioning of Peter**

Something else to take note of in our text is Jesus recommissioning Peter. Feed my sheep. *Peter you may have doubted your role in my service after how you fell short in the High Priest's courtyard, but doubt no more. Go feed my sheep. Care for the body of Christ. Build them up in the Gospel.*

### **The Savior of Second Chances**

Peter's situation displays to us that **Jesus is the Savior of Second Chances.** Peter may have thought he was damaged goods at this point. I mean, he denied the One that he called the Messiah out in public at a critical time. Yet, here is Jesus, calling him back to the work. Calling Peter to lead by feeding His sheep. Calling Peter into relationship with Himself, "Follow me."

### **Peter's Transformation**

While Peter denied Jesus in that courtyard, Jesus never gave up on Peter. He continued to work on and through Peter. He changed Peter. Studying this passage took me back a few years to the time that we spent walking through the book of Acts. In the first 8 or 9 chapters we saw story after story of Peter boldly proclaiming the message of Jesus in the face of intense pressure and real persecution.

### **An Account of Boldness**

I want to read one of those accounts to you now. Before I read this, just stop and remember Peter's cowardice in the courtyard. He wouldn't even claim to know Jesus. But our Savior restores, our Savior gives second chances, third chances, fourth chances, He forgives and transforms. Listen to Peter in Acts 5...

### **Acts 5:27-32**

[27] And when they had brought them, they set them before the council. And the high priest questioned them, [28] saying, "We strictly charged you not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching, and you intend to bring this man's blood upon us." [29] But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than men. [30] The God of

our fathers raised Jesus, whom you killed by hanging him on a tree. [31] God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. [32] And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him.”

He wouldn't claim to even know Jesus in the courtyard, but now he stands before the very men who murdered Jesus and boldly tells them he won't stop preaching the Gospel come what may and unfolds the glorious Gospel of grace for them right there. What an unbelievable transformation!

### **This Story is About Jesus**

What an incredible Savior we serve. **This story isn't about Peter so much as it is about Jesus.**

- Jesus is the one who didn't give up on Peter.
- Jesus is the one who forgave Peter's betrayal.
- Jesus is the one who restored Peter and built Him back up after Peter fell under the lie of pride.
- Jesus is the one who recommissioned Peter and sent Him back to care for His flock and feed His sheep.
- Jesus is the one who called Peter back into intimate relationship with Him, "Follow Me."

There is much to learn from Peter's example, **but this story isn't about how Peter turned his life around, it is about how Jesus transformed a proud man with a fragile faith and a broken spirit into a mighty servant of God.** To God be the glory for the great things He has done!

### **CONCLUSION**

The hope that we take from this story is that **Jesus can do the same thing in your life.** He has the same goal for you that He had for Peter. He wants to transform you into His image more and more. The specifics will look different in your life, but He wants to grow your faith and dependence upon Him and send you out into the world as one of His witnesses that you may go and speak of the grace and hope you have found in Him.

What we need to learn from Peter in this story is that **pride is a quick way to ruin the work of Jesus in our lives. Our faith, much like Peter's, is fragile. We need Jesus from moment to moment far more than we will ever know.** Like Peter, we could be a few hours away from taking the biggest fall in our spiritual lives. We need Jesus.

So humble yourselves Brother and Sisters. **Go live as if your faith depends completely on Jesus' influence in your life, because it does. Pray desperately. Devour God's Word. Surround yourself by His people. Rejoice over our faithful Savior.**

**Let's Pray**