

the consequences, but, instead, he DENIED any connection with Jesus!

- b. When we are true followers of Jesus, our *close* friends, neighbors, and coworkers will know – by what we say and do! If they don't know, *God is calling us to REPENT!*

5. **Peter – His SINCERE SORROW** – Just as he was speaking [even while he was still speaking], the rooster crowed.⁶¹ The Lord turned and looked straight at Peter. Then Peter remembered the word the Lord had spoken to him: “Before the rooster crows today, you will disown me three times.”⁶² And he went outside and wept bitterly.

- a. Peter and Judas (*he will be our focus this Thursday*) – both were very sorry, but one went to heaven and one went to hell. Why? *Only one was led to repentance!*
- b. Repentance is both *sorrow* and *faith*; the first deals with *sin* and the second with *forgiveness!*
- i. Sorrow includes admission, sadness, and prevention (some SAY they are sorry but continue)!
- ii. Faith includes trust in Jesus for the forgiveness of our sins! *The Spirit must work both within us!*

Conclusion: Denial is serious – Peter cut himself off from Christ, *but GOD IS GOOD and restored him!* Now let us → be aware of temptation, → be confident in Jesus, and → live in continual repentance! And all God's people said: *Amen!*

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Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 7500 State Rd., Parma, Ohio 44134, 440-845-2230

Peter was Tempted, And He Fell!

Based on these two passages:

Part 1: Luke 22:31-34

As Satan tempted Job, so he asked to tempt Peter!

Part 2: Luke 22:54-62

Peter was tempted, and he fell!

Palm Sunday – 2010

March 28 → 8:15 & 10:45

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ, temptation will always be part – *even a big part* – of our earthly lives! Remember, God does NOT tempt us (James 1:13-15), but He does allow us to be tempted (1 Corinthians 10:13)! Furthermore, whenever He allows it, *He ALWAYS provides a way of escape!*

Regarding sin, the devil tells us: “It's no big deal!” But God's Word has recently taught us – *through the fall of Eve and David* (in this series) – that *very extraordinary people* can fall. Furthermore, we have learned that the consequences of sin are both TEMPORAL and ETERNAL! Also, *none of us has any ability to escape!* Therefore, *God sent His Son to rescue us!*

In today's sermon, let us ✦ see what led to Peter's fall, ✦ realize the GREATNESS of his fall, and ✦ realize that *MORE THAN SORROW* is very important!

1. **Peter – He was Confident IN HIMSELF** – Even though Jesus told him what was coming, *Peter thought he was tough enough to endure!*

- a. ³¹ **“Simon, Simon, Satan has asked [literally demanded] to sift you [literally plural – you’ll] 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.”** Try to imagine the ✦stress, ✦fear, and ✦temptation for the disciples in connection with Jesus’ ✦arrest, ✦trial, and ✦crucifixion. *SATAN – the prince of darkness* – had been given permission to do those terrible things, but Jesus knew the eventual outcome for Peter – *turning back, repentance!*
- b. But notice Peter’s reply – not stress or fear *but confidence in himself*: ³³ ... **“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.”** God wants us to know that *our greatest abilities are NO MATCH for the forces of evil*. That is why James wrote: **“God is opposed to the proud [those who trust in themselves], but gives grace to the humble [those who trust in Him].”** ⁷ **Submit therefore to God [know and follow His will as written in His Word; THEN you will:]. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.”** (James 4:6-7 NAS)
2. **Peter – His FIRST Denial** – ⁵⁴ **Then seizing him, they led him away and took him into the house of the high priest. Peter followed at a distance. ⁵⁵ But when they had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and had sat down together, Peter sat down with them. ⁵⁶ A servant girl saw him seated there in the firelight. She looked closely at him and said, “This man was with him.” ⁵⁷ But he denied it. **“Woman, I don't know him,”** he said.**
- a. How terrible was Peter’s statement? Jesus said: **“EVERYONE [even crucified criminals] therefore who shall confess Me before men, I will also confess him before My Father who is in heaven. ³³ But whoever [even when one of my disciples or a faithful church member] shall deny Me before men, I will also deny him before My Father who is in heaven.”** (Matt. 10:32-33 NAS)
- b. People can deny Jesus with their WORDS – *like Peter*, and with their ACTIONS – *by living in OPEN and in SECRET opposition to His Holy Word!*
3. **Peter – His SECOND Denial** – ⁵⁸ **A little later someone else saw him and said, “You also are one of them [one of Jesus’ disciples].” **“Man, I am not!”** Peter replied.**
- a. **Think about Jesus** – He had done nothing wrong, *He was sinless in every way* yet He had been arrested by 600 soldiers (a cohort)! Now Jesus was at their mercy to be beaten **OR MUCH WORSE!**
- b. **Think about Peter** – He was Jesus’ *most outspoken follower*; therefore, since Jesus was in a most difficult situation, **THE SAME COULD HAPPEN TO PETER – and he knew it!** Now, notice what *Peter chose*: **Freedom** over arrest; **comfort** over a beating; **hell** over heaven!
4. **Peter – His THIRD Denial** – ⁵⁹ **About an hour later another [emphatically (literal)] asserted, “Certainly this fellow was with him, for he is a Galilean.” ⁶⁰ Peter replied, **“Man, I don't know what you're talking about!”****
- a. The accuser may have had his finger in Peter’s face! *Now the situation was on the verge of boiling over!* Peter could have **EMBRACED** his Savior – *and suffered*