

## AND PETER WENT OUT AND WEPT BITTERLY

LUKE 22:47-62

<sup>47</sup> While he was still speaking a crowd came up, and the man who was called Judas, one of the Twelve, was leading them. He approached Jesus to kiss him, <sup>48</sup> but Jesus asked him, “Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?”

<sup>49</sup> When Jesus’ followers saw what was going to happen, they said, “Lord, should we strike with our swords?” <sup>50</sup> And one of them struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his right ear.

<sup>51</sup> But Jesus answered, “No more of this!” And he touched the man’s ear and healed him.

<sup>52</sup> Then Jesus said to the chief priests, the officers of the temple guard, and the elders, who had come for him, “Am I leading a rebellion, that you have come with swords and clubs? <sup>53</sup> Every day I was with you in the temple courts, and you did not lay a hand on me. But this is your hour—when darkness reigns.”

<sup>54</sup> Then seizing him, they led him away and took him into the house of the high priest. Peter followed at a distance. <sup>55</sup> But when they had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and had sat down together, Peter sat down with them. <sup>56</sup> A servant girl saw him seated there in the firelight. She looked closely at him and said, “This man was with him.”

<sup>57</sup> But he denied it. “Woman, I don’t know him,” he said.

<sup>58</sup> A little later someone else saw him and said, “You also are one of them.”  
“Man, I am not!” Peter replied.

<sup>59</sup> About an hour later another asserted, “Certainly this fellow was with him, for he is a Galilean.”

<sup>60</sup> Peter replied, “Man, I don’t know what you’re talking about!” Just as he was speaking, the rooster crowed. <sup>61</sup> 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.” <sup>62</sup> And he went outside and wept bitterly.  
(Luke 22:47-62)

Wept - Sob, Wail  
Bitterly - violently

**What would cause a person to behave in this way?**

- What would cause a person to sob in the presence of God?
- What would cause him to wail in repentance?
- To weep bitterly for forgiveness?

**Peter realized that what he had done was wrong.**

- He came to the realization that he had sinned against God!
- That sin was as ugly as God said it was.
- Destructive
- Disabling
- Dishonoring
- Devilish

**Judas also came to a realization that night,**

- but he could not find it in himself to repent,
- so the Bible tells us that he went out and hung himself.

**Rom 3:23 lets us know that...**

- *all have sinned, and fall short of the glory of God (Rom 3:23)*

**Who has?**

- Everybody
- Everyone of us here today.
- Everyone who has ever lived, except Jesus.
- **At some point in our lives each and every one of us**
- **have denied a relationship with Jesus.**

**But what would cause Peter to weep bitterly?**

- Here was a strong man.
- A fisherman by trade.
- Many a storm he weathered out in the sea.
- Here was someone who would fight to defend Jesus.
- But we find him weeping bitterly.

- Could it be that he realized how much Jesus loved him.

- Could it be that he realized that when no one cared for him... Jesus cared for him.
- Could it be that he realized that he had just **denied** his greatest friend.

**Let me tell you why Peter wept bitterly...Jesus had told him in Matt 10:33**

<sup>33</sup> *But whoever disowns me before men, I will disown him before my Father in heaven. (Matt 10:33)*

- **He had denied Jesus 3 times in one night.**

**Peter realized that he was in big trouble now.**

- He sealed his own fate.
- He denied the Savior of the world 3 times.
- And before who??? A little girl!!!
- He wasn't being tortured.
- No one was twisting his arm.
- No one held a sword to his throat and made him say it.
- He did it on his own.
- Of his own choice.
- **And now we find him weeping bitterly before God.**

**How many remember that Jesus had given to Peter the keys to the kingdom of heaven?**

- Can I suggest that Peter teaches us how to get things right with God even after we blow it?
- Peter is just like us.
- We blow it.
- We fail.
- We talk big and a test comes and we let God down and ourselves.

Peter repented that night...and his example has had a great effect on us.

- We don't realize the effect we have on other people around us.
- We don't realize how much we influence each other.
- Others will not follow Christ if they have no example.

**Up to this point in Peter's life he hadn't learned this lesson.**

- We see him hanging with Jesus.
- We see him at the healings.
- We see him walking with Jesus,
- We even see him handing out the bread and fish that would feed thousands.
- He was there for the miracles,  
**but we don't find Peter coming to grips with such failure.**
- **In fact we don't find any of the disciples denying Jesus.**

**He told them all that repentance should be preached...**

- Yet none of them had ever repented.
- Up to this point they were satisfied with just **being** a part of Jesus' ministry.
- But this night Peter realized that he had to become a result of Jesus' ministry.

**There is a difference!**

- It is important to be a part of the ministry, but it's far more important to be a result of the ministry.
- You can't minister to anyone until you your self have experienced Jesus!
- How could Peter stand on the day of Pentecost and preach repentance if he himself had not repented of such a terrible thing?

How could he stand there with a straight face  
and say “repent and be baptized”  
if he himself did not weep bitterly that night?

if his own heart hadn’t been ripped out of him?

***Can I tell you something today?***

***People don’t like to be told anything.***

***But can I tell you something by the authority of the word of God????!!!***

- We need to weep before God from time to time.
- We need to find a place like Peter did and repent for our wrongs.
- Chances are we’ve offended God many times this week.
- Profanity
- Lust
- Lying
- Cheating
- Greed
- Jealousy
- Pride

**Did you know that God won’t even hear our prayers  
if we practice sin in our lives?**

<sup>12</sup> *For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous  
and his ears are attentive to their prayer,  
but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.” (1 Pet 3:12)*

**“The reason some people haven’t found  
a place to repent of their sins  
is that they haven’t yet realized  
*how much their sins offend God.*”**

Sin represents everything about our character that causes us to fall short of the righteousness of God.

**Some people say,**

**“Well I don’t believe God is that kind of God.”**

**I would imagine that Peter’s conception of God and sin changed when he saw Jesus hanging on the cross for his sin and betrayal.**

**Ultimately our view of sin changes when we see what our sin did to Jesus.**

*<sup>5</sup> ...he was pierced for our transgressions,  
he was crushed for our iniquities;  
the punishment that brought us peace was upon him,  
and by his wounds we are healed. (Isaiah 53:5)*

**The world is full of opinions about who God is.**

**Someone recently said,**

“Look, we all know that ‘God’ is out there at some level, but no one has a right to tell another person what ‘God’ looks like for them.

Each person is free to express that how ever they want, but they should keep their opinions to themselves.”

**Opinions are a dime a dozen.**

## **How do we know what's right?**

**“The Bible is the only book that has the words to eternal life.”**

**Peter himself said,**

<sup>68</sup> *“Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. (John 6:68)*

**Regardless of our own personal beliefs,  
it is by these commandments  
that we will be judged some day.**

**There is no second chance after death.  
There is no purgatory.  
There is no help for the one who does not repent.**

**When Peter denied Jesus...  
he looked up and his eyes met Jesus' eyes  
and they shared a communication that words could not utter.**

- Peter saw the pain his denial caused Jesus.
- He realized just how much **he hurt God**.
- We know what it's like to be offended.
- We get mad if someone hurts us.
- We shake our fists and say all kinds of things when someone does us wrong,
- But we expect God to sit back and do nothing when we deny him.
- We expect him to be quiet when we curse his name and sin against Him.

- The Psalmist says, <sup>11</sup> *God is a righteous judge, a God who expresses his wrath every day.* (Psa 7:11)
- Every day!

**People say, “Well, He is a God of love.”**

**Yes He is....but He also can't bear them that sin against Him.**

1 Cor 6:9-10

<sup>9</sup> *Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders <sup>10</sup> nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.* (1 Cor 6:9-10)

Gal 5:19-21

<sup>19</sup> *The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; <sup>20</sup> idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions <sup>21</sup> and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.* (Gal 5:19-21)

***When Peter looked up after he had denied Jesus for the third time...***

- I believe he saw more than disappointment on Jesus' face.
- **I believe he saw the pain of God.**
- He saw something like the kind of look we give our children when they let us down.
- I believe that Peter realized that *his laziness towards the things of God had gone too far.*

**That's why he's weeping bitterly.  
He's making things right with God.**

**That's why a grown man is sobbing and shaking.**

- That's why the tears
- That's why the weeping.
- He knows he did wrong.
- And he knows that if he repents, God will forgive him.

*<sup>9</sup>If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:9)*

CLOSING

As we come to the foot of the cross today,  
I wonder if there is one person who will come and kneel before Jesus.

I wonder if there is one person in this whole group of people  
who would confess his faults to God  
and make things right.

You may think by holding it in  
that everything will be okay,  
but by holding it in you offend God.

Will you come to Jesus today and confess your sin?

Will you become a result of Jesus' ministry?

Will you see like Peter, who went out and weep bitterly,  
that Jesus is the only solution?

...that He repairs the brokenness in us  
and restores our relationship with God the Father?

Please will you come to Jesus today?

Will you hear Peter's words from his first sermon when asked, "What must I do to be saved?"

*"Repent and be baptized everyone of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2:38).*

INVITATION

Please come now as we all stand and sing.

## SMALL GROUP STUDY

**Warm-up:** How has God's grace changed you?  
How has the deep faith of others helped your faith?

### Look at the Book

**Luke 22:47-62**

1. Why do you think Peter reacted to Jesus the way he did at Jesus' arrest?
2. Do you think that Peter had to experience such disappointment? Why?
3. If you were Peter, how would you handle the situation?
4. With respect to repentance, what would have been the most difficult part for you? Why?
5. What do you think verse 54 indicates about Peter's mental state?

### Closer Look

1. Have you ever found yourself in a situation wherein you denied Jesus before someone? (If so, will you share that with the group?)
2. Do you think that denying Christ at least once in your life urges you to make a commitment to Jesus more earnestly?
3. What is the difference between denying Christ and just not speaking up for Him before others?

### Looking Around

Go around the room and have each person share what they would most like to change about themselves so as to not deny Jesus before others.