

THE MIRACLE OF MERCY

Part 2 - God's Mercy and My Failures

WHAT CAUSES MY FAILURES? - 3 THINGS PETER DID WRONG

1. _____

Simon, Simon, how Satan has pursued you, that he might make you part of his harvest. ³² But I have prayed for you. I have prayed that your faith will hold firm and that you will recover from your failure and become a source of strength for your brothers here. **Luke 22:31-32** (VOICE)

2. _____

Lord, what are You talking about? I'm going all the way to the end with You—to prison, to execution—I'm prepared to do anything for You. ³⁴ No, Peter, the truth is that before the rooster crows at dawn, you will have denied that you even know Me, not just once, but three times. **Luke 22:33-34** (VOICE)

“Jesus said ‘Tonight every one of you will desert me. For the Scripture says that when the shepherd is killed, the sheep will be scattered ... Then Peter boasted, ‘But Lord, even if everyone else fails you, I will NEVER deny you!’ Jesus replied, ‘Peter, the truth is that before this night is over, and before the rooster crows at dawn, you will deny knowing me three times.’ Peter insisted, ‘But Lord, I would NEVER do that! Even if I have to die ... I'll never deny!’ **Matthew 26:31-35a**

So be careful. If you are thinking, “Oh, I would never behave like that”—let this be a warning to you. For you too may fall into sin. **1 Corinthians 10:12**

Pride precedes destruction, an arrogance a nasty fall. **Proverbs 16:18** (VOICE)

3. _____

⁵⁴ Then seizing him, they led him away and took him into the house of the high priest. Peter followed at a distance. ⁵⁵ And when some there 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. **Luke 22:54-57** (NIV)

It is a dangerous trap to be concerned with what others think of you, but if you trust the Lord, you'll be safe. **Proverbs 29:25** (GNT)

WHAT SHOULD I DO WHEN I FAIL? - 3 THINGS PETER DID RIGHT

1. _____

“When Peter heard the rooster crow, he remembered that Jesus had said, ‘Before the rooster crows, you'll deny me three times.’ Then Peter went outside and wept bitterly.” **Matthew 26:75** (NIV)

The greatest sacrifice you want is a broken spirit. God, you will gladly accept a heart that is broken because of sadness over sin. **Psalms 51:17** (NIV)

Let there be tears for what you have done. Let there be sorrow and deep grief. Let there be sadness instead of laughter, and gloom instead of joy. ¹⁰ Humble yourselves before the Lord, and He will lift you up. **James 4:9-10** (NLT)

2. _____

- **Knowing that** _____

Simon, do you know that Satan has asked to have you all to sift like wheat?—but I have prayed for you that you may not lose your faith. **Luke 22:31** (Phillips)

- **Knowing that** _____

Yes, when you have turned back to me, you must strengthen these brothers of yours. **Luke 22:32** (Phillips)

Because of his great mercy God has given us a new life by raising Jesus Christ from death. This fills us with a living hope... **1 Peter 1:3** (CSV)

3. _____

Mary Magdalene went and found the disciples together, grieving and weeping. **Mark 16:10** (TLB)

² Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. **Galatians 6:2** (NIV)

Sunday evening (Easter) the disciples were meeting behind locked doors because they were afraid.... Suddenly, Jesus was standing there among them! “Peace be with you,” He said. ²⁰ ... He showed them the wounds in His hands and His side. They were filled with joy when they saw the Lord! **John 20:19-20** (NLT)

²⁰ “For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.” **Matthew 18:20** (NIV)

“A week later the disciples were together again meeting in a home.” **John 20:26**

So now forgive and comfort him. Such distress could overwhelm someone like that if he's not forgiven and comforted. ⁸ That is why I urge you to assure him that you love him... **2 Corinthians 2:7-8** (GW)