

## THE LIFE OF JESUS

### The God Of Second Chances

Matthew 26:31-35, 57-58, 69-75 - On the way (to the Mount of Olives), Jesus told them, "Tonight all of you will desert me. For the Scriptures say: 'God will strike the Shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.'<sup>32</sup> But after I have been raised from the dead, I will go ahead of you to Galilee and meet you there."<sup>33</sup> Peter declared, "Even if everyone else deserts you, I will never desert you."<sup>34</sup> Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, Peter—this very night, before the rooster crows, you will deny three times that you even know me."<sup>35</sup> "No!" Peter insisted. "Even if I have to die with you, I will never deny you!" And all the other disciples vowed the same.

<sup>57</sup> Then (after Jesus was betrayed by Judas and arrested) the people who had arrested Jesus led him to the home of Caiaphas, the high priest, where the teachers of religious law and the elders had gathered.<sup>58</sup> Meanwhile, Peter followed him at a distance and came to the high priest's courtyard. He went in and sat with the guards and waited to see how it would all end.

<sup>69</sup> Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. A servant girl came over and said to him, "You were one of those with Jesus the Galilean."<sup>70</sup> But Peter denied it in front of everyone. "I don't know what you're talking about," he said.<sup>71</sup> Later, out by the gate, another servant girl noticed him and said to those standing around, "This man was with Jesus of Nazareth."<sup>72</sup> Again Peter denied it, this time with an oath. "I don't even know the man," he said.

<sup>73</sup> A little later some of the other bystanders came over to Peter and said, "You must be one of them; we can tell by your Galilean accent."<sup>74</sup> Peter swore, "A curse on me if I'm lying—I don't know the man!" And immediately the rooster crowed.<sup>75</sup> Suddenly, Jesus' words flashed through Peter's mind: "Before the rooster crows, you will deny three times that you even know me." And he went away, weeping bitterly.

#### • No matter how hard we try, we will all mess up and disappoint God.

1 Peter 5:6-9 – (Peter said) Humble yourselves under the mighty power of God, and at the right time he will lift you up in honor.<sup>7</sup> Give all your worries and cares to God, for he cares about you.<sup>8</sup> Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour.<sup>9</sup> Stand firm against him, and be strong in your faith.

English has one word for "love."

Greek has four words for "love":

- *agape* (highest love that implies total commitment)
- *phileo* (a term of affection like in friendship)
- *storge* (love between family members)
- *eros* (romantic love)

John 21:15-17 - After breakfast Jesus asked Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me (*agape*) more than these?" Yes, Lord," Peter replied, "you know I love you (*phileo*)." "Then feed my lambs," Jesus told him.<sup>16</sup> Jesus repeated the question: "Simon son of John, do you love me (*agape*)?" "Yes, Lord," Peter said, "you know I love you (*phileo*)." "Then take care of my sheep," Jesus said.<sup>17</sup> A third time he asked him, "Simon son of John, do you love me (*phileo*)?" Peter was hurt that Jesus asked the question a third time. He said, "Lord, you know everything. You know that I love you." Jesus said, "Then feed my sheep."

#### • When God restores us after we fail Him, He strengthens us for greater service.

Acts 2:36-41 – Peter said, "So let everyone in Israel know for certain that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, to be both Lord and Christ!"<sup>37</sup> Peter's words pierced their hearts, and they said to him and to the other apostles, "Brothers, what should we do?"<sup>38</sup> Peter replied, "Each of you must repent of your sins and turn to God, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."<sup>39</sup> This promise is to you, to your children, and to those far away—all who have been called by the Lord our God."<sup>40</sup> Then Peter continued preaching for a long time, strongly urging all his listeners, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation!"<sup>41</sup> Those who believed what Peter said were baptized and added to the church that day—about 3,000 in all.

#### • God uses our failures to make us stronger.

1 Peter 5:10 – (Peter said) In his kindness God called you to share in his eternal glory by means of Christ Jesus. So after you have suffered a little while, he will restore, support, and strengthen you, and he will place you on a firm foundation.

#### • God uses our failures to show His great forgiveness.

Matthew 18:21-22 - Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how often should I forgive someone<sup>l</sup> who sins against me? Seven times?"<sup>22</sup> "No, not seven times," Jesus replied, "but seventy times seven!"