

September 10 | Sunday

Peter: Denial

Read [John 18:12-27](#)



11 | Mon – It’s a dirty job but somebody’s got to do it | Read [John 13:1-10](#)

In the region where Jesus lived, dirt roads made for filthy feet. Usually a disciple washed the teacher’s feet so it makes sense that Peter protested when he saw Jesus doing that job. What was the point? Jesus demonstrated by words and actions that true leaders have a servant heart, a lesson Peter would need to learn. Whose feet have you ‘washed’ recently?

12 | Tue – Overconfidence | Read [Mark 14:27-31](#)

Peter sort of threw the other disciples under the bus when he declared that, even if everyone else ran away, *he* would not. He was very confident in his own ability to handle whatever was ahead. Are you like Peter sometimes, very sure that you have whatever it takes to solve your problems? Jesus predicted Peter’s denials but he also said “after I am raised up...” That statement did not even seem to register with Peter. Is it possible to be so busy defending yourself, you miss the encouragement that God is also giving you?

13 | Wed – Jesus prays for me? | Read [Luke 22:31-34](#)

Jesus’ words reveal that there was more than just human nature at work. Satan was not only trying to defeat Jesus but also trying to trick Peter into giving up. Do you understand that you do not wrestle against flesh and blood only but against spiritual forces of evil - Eph. 6:12? How would you feel if Jesus said to you, as he said to Peter, that he was praying for *you* that your faith would not fail? According to Hebrews 7:25, he is doing just that. Does it give you hope to know you are not alone in your struggles?

14 | Thu – Nodding off | Read [Mark 14:32-38](#)

Jesus had a profound sense of mission guiding his steps toward the cross. Yet, it did not make the violent execution any easier to face. Mark reports that Jesus was deeply distressed, telling Peter, James and John “My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death.” Ironically Peter, the man who said he would never be a deserter, could not stay awake to support Jesus. Have you ever let someone down? Jesus does not condemn for he knows that sometimes our spirit is willing but our flesh is weak.

15 | Fri – God’s will is sometimes hard | Read [Luke 22:49-51](#) and [John 18:3-12](#)

When Judas came to betray Jesus, Peter drew a sword to defend his teacher. Finally he was acting bravely but Jesus stopped him. Was it to prevent Peter from also being arrested and executed as well? Jesus reminded Peter that he was doing his Father’s will. What effect do you think this had on Peter?

16 | Sat – Facing the truth | Read [John 18:15-18, 25-27](#) and [22:59-62](#)

On that fateful night, Peter realized that Jesus knew him better than he knew himself. Jesus knew that Peter was no coward - just a human being facing pressures he did not anticipate and had never experienced before. When Jesus looked at Peter after the 3rd denial, it must have broken Peter’s heart...but maybe it saved his life. Now Peter knew himself as he really was and how much he needed help. How do you react to personal failure? Do you cover it up or do you admit it to those you trust, asking for help?