

## You Will All Fall Away On Account Of Me

- Mt 26:31-35, 69-75; Lk 22:31-38, 54-62; Mk 14:27-31, 66-72 -

### **\*\* Beginning Remarks**

### **\*\*Scripture Reading: Mt 26:31-35; Lk 22:31-38, 54-62**

**I.** Lord, I am ready to go with you to prison and to death.

#### **1) “Peter”, who was called and blessed**

\* called to be an apostle/representative of the 12 apostles / often closest to Jesus Christ / his first sermon (3000 converted)/ [performing] signs and miracles

+ representative life of those who are called and blessed/ ordinary fisherman / quick-tempered, worldly, of the flesh / disowned the Lord three times

"Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men." <Mt 4:18> "8 kinds of blessed men" <5:1-11> who saw and heard: "Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness." <9:35> and personally experienced: the Lord "gave them authority to drive out evil spirits and to heal every disease and sickness" <10:1>; "you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it" <16:18>; and" you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel" <19:28>.

→ Like Peter, I, having been called and blessed, will have a similar experience. <Eph 1:4-14; Rom 1:6; 1Th 1:4→ Eph 2:1-22→ Eph 3-6>

#### **2) True Confession of Faith = "Lord, I am ready to go with you to prison and to death."**

"Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!" <路 5:8> "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life." <約 6:68>

"You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." <太 16:16>

\* Though he disowned the Lord three times, this is what Peter had known for real; his faith, the way he was moved, and his following of the Lord all bear the proof.

→ Even though I am often weak, Peter's faith is mine and I truly believe in the Apostle's Creed.

#### **3) His confession of faith was all fulfilled in the end.**

\* All his life, he followed Jesus Christ to the end, preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ and the heavenly kingdom, driving out demons, raising the dead, healing the sick and establishing churches; he was martyred, having been nailed to the cross, upside down of his own will, thereby leaving a beautiful example for Christians of the later generation.

→ What I believe in today will be fulfilled as the same continues throughout my life in the form of the moving of the H.S.

#### **4) Notwithstanding, the necessary testing still awaits him = Jesus Christ's training of disciples**

\* Peter had to undergo many "tests, which he had to be able to withstand" before he became an important vessel "the Lord would use".

\* All those who believe and follow Jesus Christ have to walk the walk Christ walked (temptation, service, persecution, the Cross and reigning on the throne).

\* God's good will lies in all the encounters of the lives of the saints who have been called and is revealed according to the growth schedule of their lives.

→ Amidst the trials and testing I am undergoing, all of my encounters are the work of God; they are my training, service and crowns.

+ The faster we reach the higher plain, the earlier we will be free of "the troubles brought about by our own weakness but enjoy "all of God's glories, his authority, power and abundance" and become "the source of all blessings" for our family, relatives and this age.

## **2. "I tell you the truth," Jesus answered, "this very night, before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times."**

### **1) The process of Peter's fall**

Peter followed him at a distance, ... to see the outcome. <Mt 26:58; Mk 14:54; Lk 22:54>

Terrible scene at the place of judgment / powerless Jesus / constant accusations of others

Three times Peter said "I do not know the man".

The rooster crowed. The Lord turned and looked straight at Peter. <Lk 22:61>

Peter went outside and wept bitterly.

→ Our real trouble is not the challenges and difficulties we are faced with; rather, it is when we "do not see the Lord", we are mistaken that "the Lord is not helping", or we think "the Lord has no power"; as a result, we are bound by our lives' circumstances, conditions and word of man.

### **2) Lord Jesus knew already that Peter would fall =what one's life really is, so are the circumstances he faces and to which he reacts.**

\* The Lord's focus is not on the one episode of "disowning the Lord three times" but on the life that is "not able to disown the Lord" many times everyday.

\* Before he disowned the Lord, Peter betrayed a lot of evidence in his living of "a weak life incapable of overcoming reality".

= We are not yet well adjusted: there is a lot in our lives that "does not match what we believe"

- walking on the water: "You of little faith," he said, "why did you doubt?" <Mt 14:31>/ dissuading the Lord not to go: "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men." <Mt 16:23>/ on Mt. Transfiguration: "Lord, it is good for us to be here.... I will put up three shelters...." <Mt 17:4>/ "how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times?" <Mt 18:22>/ Indignant of Mary's waste <Mt 25:6-13>/ Asking the Lord, "Surely not I, Lord?" <Mt 26:22>/ While Jesus Christ was preaching about him being sold and eating his flesh and drinking his blood", a dispute arose among them as to which of them was considered to be greatest <Lk 22:24>/ asleep at Gethsemane <Mt 26:40-46>/ At the Lord's arrest, he drew his sword and struck the high priest's servant, cutting off his right ear. <Jn 18:11>...

→ I need to contemplate: How does the Lord look at me and how is he judging me?

### **3) Satan has asked to sift you as wheat. <Lk 22:31>**

= Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.

<1Pe :7> Deceiving and accusing me day and night <Rev 12:10>

At any time and at any place, holy saints have to battle against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. <Eph 6:10-18>

- There's no way to deceive Satan; he knows where a saint's weaknesses are.

- We'll know how Satan will attack us making us lose faith → worry and fear → wrong judgment → fall and fail

- The Lord also knows Satan attacks me but permits it to happen in order to train me; while permitting the attack, he sends angels to protect me so that I will not die..

**4) The Lord said, "Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak." <Mt 26:41>**

- My spirit has to watch and see the facts (God's presence, training, help, blessing), guard my heart and mind, seek to find God's good will in everything and follow, and face tomorrow in confidence and with no fear.

- In trouble, I will double my renewing, train myself, try to keep a heart of thanksgiving and praise and witness to the Lord's name (crises transformed into opportunities)

**3. But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers.**

**1) Jesus Christ's prayers = Jesus Christ's training of disciples**

- But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers." <Lk 22:32>

- The Lord turned and looked straight at Peter. <Lk 22:61>

- "Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you truly love me more than these?... Feed my lambs." <Jn 21:15> "When you were younger you dressed yourself and went where you wanted; but when you are old you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go." <Jn 21:18> "If I want him to remain alive until I return, what is that to you? You must follow me." <Jn 21:22>

**2) The Fulfillment of Jesus Christ's Prayer = Peter having been tried and tested**

- He would never forget for the rest of his life "having disowned the Lord three times". After the Lord's resurrection, he was asked by the Lord three times "do you truly love me more than these? Feed my lambs! You must follow me!"

- He truly knew the one to whom he had confessed "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." <Mt 16:16>

- He firmly believed in all the teachings of the Lord Jesus Christ, his fulfillment and prophecy; he vowed to follow the Lord forever, pray earnestly and abide by his commands. <Acts 1>

- The H.S. came upon him and filled him so that he would testify that "Jesus is the Christ" and gain many of his disciples. <Acts 2>

- He performed miraculous signs and wonders in testimony of the word he preached. <Acts 3> He feared no

persecution but witnessed to the Lord everyday. <Acts 4> He saw through Anania and Sapphara and the work of Satan in their hearts and rebuked them for having lied to the H.S. <Acts 5> He pastured the churches with wisdom. <Acts 6> He understood God's good will for the gentiles and preached the gospel to them. <Acts 8-11>. He saw the protection and help from the angels at any time. <Acts 12>

**3) In my life and living, there is a lot of evidence of "Jesus Christ praying for me".**

"Christ Jesus, who died--more than that, who was raised to life--is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us." <Rom 8:34>

"Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them." <Heb 7:25>

"In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. <sup>27</sup> And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will." <Rom 8:26-27>

*\* Evidence of the Lord's praying for me:* When we run into trouble, we will draw near to the Lord all the more → therefore, we have more opportunities to hear the Lord (his word)→ we know God's good will in our hearts → we will receive the peace that transcends understanding → we will see the Lord's help (through man, our encounters, and the changed circumstances)→ trouble transformed into testimonies (calamities turned into blessings)→ we will move one story up in terms of our spiritual growth.

- This is the blessing enjoyed by spiritual giants who lived before us (Abraham, Moses, David, Elijah, Paul) and I should enjoy the same everyday.

- Even if I lose faith and fall because of my problems, my past experience tells me that the almighty hand of our God will always support me and help me up again so that in my days ahead I will draw even closer to the Lord and trust entirely in him (=Peter's strengthening after he had disowned the Lord)

*\* Before I see Lord Jesus is praying for me now, I am not able to proceed with my sanctification.*

- "Determination" cannot bring about sanctification. One has to wait to see God's good will, his help and blessing" amidst his troubles before he will love praying, drawing near to the Lord, knowing more and more clearly God's good will and following him. There is no other way to sanctification.

+ Therefore, do not fear the troubles we encounter but rather fear "not seeing the Lord".

**4) Speed the journal "to a higher spiritual plain" and become a "triumphant Teacher" quickly**

- Recently, our church has been studying "Ecclesiastes" so that we will be able to quickly grasp the mysteries of " *Meaningless*→ *answer in Christ* → *enjoy blessings*."

- Paul's confession <Ph 1:12→ 2:5-11→ 3:7-14→ 4:4-7→ 4:9-13>

**\*\* Concluding Remarks**

**\*\* Prayer Topics of the Week \*\***

1) Peter said, "**Lord, I am ready to go with you to prison and to death**": is this how I often confess to the Lord? In Christ, have I seen the absolute answer for such confession? Will what I believe in today be all fulfilled in the future?

2). "**I tell you the truth,**" Jesus answered, "**this very night, before the rooster crows, you**

**will disown me three times."**: at present, what it is that continues to make me worry and fear? From Jesus Christ's perspective, is it still worrisome? How do I guard my heart and mind?

**3) But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers:** Can I see the evidence of Lord Jesus' praying for me? Does my life continue to "a higher ground" because of his praying for me? How do quickly gain the higher spiritual ground, thereby, already free of "any distractions and worries", enjoying "glorifying God, benefiting men, and establishing kingdom"? In my life and living where should I readjust?