



Let's look where Peter went wrong.

## WHAT DID IT MEAN TO THEM

### 1) THE LAST SUPPER – WASHING FEET AND THE PREDICTION OF PETER'S DENIAL

Jesus and His disciples gathered in the upper room for the last supper and Jesus was about to teach them about being a servant. Even in this beautiful example of Jesus actions of being a servant, Peter fought Jesus on this action.

John 13:3-11

<sup>3</sup> Jesus, knowing that the Father had handed all things over to Him, and that He had come forth from God and was going back to God, <sup>4</sup> got up from supper and laid His outer garments aside; and He took a towel and tied it around Himself.

<sup>5</sup> Then He poured water into the basin, and began washing the disciples' feet and wiping them with the towel which He had tied around Himself. <sup>6</sup> So He came to Simon Peter. He said to Him, "Lord, You are washing my feet?" <sup>7</sup> Jesus answered and said to him, "What I am doing, you do not realize right now, but you will understand later." <sup>8</sup> Peter said to Him, "Never shall You wash my feet!" Jesus answered him, "If I do not wash you, you have no place with Me." <sup>9</sup> Simon Peter said to Him, "Lord, then wash not only my feet, but also my hands and my head!" <sup>10</sup> Jesus said to him, "He who has bathed needs only to wash his feet; otherwise he is completely clean. And you are clean—but not all of you." <sup>11</sup> For He knew the one who was betraying Him; it was for this reason that He said, "Not all of you are clean."

Peter was certainly bullheaded and he shows it here. Jesus had told His disciples that He had come to serve and yet when He tried to show them what that meant, Peter fought it. In verse 8 Jesus makes it clear that Peter must allow Him to wash his feet, or he had no part in Jesus and His ministry.

On the same night that Peter said that Jesus could not wash his feet he again stuck his foot in his mouth when Jesus predicts his denial.

Matt 26:31-35

"You will all fall away because of Me this night, for it is written: 'I WILL STRIKE THE SHEPHERD, AND THE SHEEP OF THE FLOCK WILL BE SCATTERED.' <sup>32</sup> But after I have been raised, I will go ahead of you to Galilee." <sup>33</sup> But Peter replied to Him, "Even if they all fall away because of You, I will never fall away!" <sup>34</sup> Jesus said to him, "Truly I say to you that this very night, before a rooster crows, you will deny Me three times."

<sup>35</sup> Peter said to Him, "Even if I have to die with You, I will not deny You!" All the disciples said the same thing as well.

Peter had just spent 3+ years with Jesus and he knew exactly who Jesus was. He had seen the miracles and had lived through so much with Him, yet here when Jesus tells him, "Truly I say to you that this very night, before a rooster crows, you will deny Me three times." (Mark 26:34), Peter argues against the statement of Jesus. Peter answers Jesus saying, "Even if I have to die with You, I will not deny You!" (Mark 26:35). Strike One!



## **2) IN THE GARDEN – SLEEPING AND SWORD PLAY**

Then Jesus and the disciples move to the Garden of Gethsemane where Jesus takes Peter along with James and John higher up into the garden. Three times Jesus came down to find the three disciples sleeping. Even after He wakes them and pleads for them to stay awake and pray for Him, they fall asleep again.

Mark 22:36, 40-45

<sup>36</sup> Then Jesus came with them to a place called Gethsemane, and told His disciples, “Sit here while I go over there and pray.” <sup>40</sup> And He came to the disciples and found them sleeping, and He said to Peter, “So, you men could not keep watch with Me for one hour? <sup>41</sup> Keep watching and praying, so that you do not come into temptation; the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.”

<sup>42</sup> He went away again a second time and prayed, saying, “My Father, if this cup cannot pass away unless I drink from it, Your will be done.” <sup>43</sup> Again He came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy.

<sup>44</sup> And He left them again, and went away and prayed a third time, saying the same thing once more.

<sup>45</sup> Then He came to the disciples and said to them, “Are you still sleeping and resting? Behold, the hour is at hand and the Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of sinners.”

Peter disappoints Jesus again by his weakness in Jesus’ time of need. Over and over again Jesus instructs Peter (as well as James and John) to pray. Jesus is in the worst time of His life, knowing what He was coming up against and Peter let Him down.

It was right then that Judas brought the soldiers and religious leaders to the garden to arrest Jesus. When the group approached Jesus we read this.

Matthew 26:51-54

And behold, one of those who were with Jesus (Peter) reached and drew his sword, and struck the slave of the high priest and cut off his ear. <sup>52</sup> Then Jesus said to him, “Put your sword back into its place; for all those who take up the sword will perish by the sword. <sup>53</sup> Or do you think that I cannot appeal to My Father, and He will at once put at My disposal more than twelve legions of angels? <sup>54</sup> How then would the Scriptures be fulfilled, which say that it must happen this way?”

Peter reacted thinking that God needed his help, he took matters into his own hands. Jesus again had to rebuke Peter for taking matters into his own hands instead of waiting on the Lord. Strike Two!

## **3) The Denial**

After all this happened in the matter of a few hours and the guilt that Peter must be feeling, Peter is faced with the confrontation that Jesus had predicted. This is the one action that Peter is remembered for more than any other. So many of us have thought, “If it had been me, that wouldn’t have happened”, but we know, if we look deep into our own heart, that we would have failed as Peter did.

Peter was standing at a fire wondering what was about to happen. Jesus had been taken and I am sure that the disciples wanted to know what was coming next. Even though Jesus had taught them all that He had they had no idea what was about to happen.

Mark 14:66–72

While Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant girls of the high priest came by. When she saw Peter warming himself, she looked closely at him. “You also were with that Nazarene, Jesus,” she said. But he denied it. “I don’t know or understand what you’re talking about,” he said, and went out into the entryway. 9 When the servant girl saw him there, she said again to those standing around, “This fellow is one of them.” Again he denied it. After a little while, those standing near said to Peter, “Surely you are one of them, for you are a Galilean.” He began to call down curses on himself, and he swore to them, “I don’t know this man you’re talking about.” Immediately the rooster crowed the second time. 10 Then Peter remembered the word Jesus had spoken to him: “Before the rooster crows twice 11 you will disown me three times.” And he broke down and wept. Strike Three!

Peter was broken. He must have felt like a complete failure. Now Jesus, the One he had followed for the last three years, the Messiah, was taken away. Soon He would be beaten and crucified. Where does that leave Peter? As the leader of the followers of Jesus, he had failed not only Jesus but the rest of the disciples as well. Was there any hope for him?