

Remaining Faithful when times are tough (Mark 14:27-42)

Café Church - 2-July-17

There are Bibles on the table in front of you

And a sermon outline

And some questions

Let me pray first...

Context

The context of the passage:

Jesus has just had his last meal with His disciples

He has introduced the sacrament of the Lord's Supper which we mentioned 2 weeks ago

And He knows that Judas will betray Him

Then in verse 26 - they sing a hymn and head for the Mount of Olives

Where the Garden of Gethsemane is

Question:

[Powerpoint 1-Question]

Have you ever broken a promise or let someone down?

How did you feel?

[Powerpoint 2-Question]

Another Question then:

How well do we know ourselves?

Are we confident that we would NEVER deny our Lord Jesus?

In our passage this evening

We find examples of over confidence

- a. Not just in Peter who said he wouldn't deny Jesus - and then he did
- b. But also the other disciples - who also let Jesus down too!

Jesus Predicts Desertion and Reunion (vv27-31)

In verses 27-31

Jesus makes a few of predictions:

[Powerpoint 3-Predictions]

1. The disciples will ALL fall away - quoting from Zechariah 13:7 - Jesus the Shepherd will be struck and the sheep - Jesus' disciples - will scatter - in other words the disciples will desert Jesus
2. He also predicts that Peter will deny him three times - despite Peter's protest that even if all the others desert Jesus - Peter says he won't- How wrong Peter is (see Mark 14:66-72)
3. And Jesus also predicts His resurrection and a reunion in Galilee - there in verse 28 (cf. Mark 16:7)

More Let downs (vv32-42)

[Powerpoint 4-Let downs]

But Peter's not the only one who lets Jesus down

As Jesus prays in the Garden

See V37 - They are all asleep

Then V40 - He again found them asleep - their eyes were heavy

Then V41 - They are asleep a third time!

SO even the other disciples denied Jesus three times - not just Peter!

They were unable to remain faithful

Jesus remains faithful (v32-42)

Compare the disciples with how Jesus conducts Himself

[Powerpoint 5-Jesus]

V32 - He prays

Even though in v34 - His soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death - even though this is agonizing - that He is about to face the most terrible death

He is faithful

Even though He'd prefer not to go through with this

In v36 - [Take this cup from me. Yet not my will but what you will](#)

Jesus submits to the will of the Father

He doesn't crumble in the tough times

He didn't give up - even though He had been deserted by all his sleeping disciples

Jesus doesn't sleep on the job

Lookup Psalm 121:4

Indeed He who watches over Israel neither slumbers or sleeps

Application

What can we learn from the disciples and Peter?

[Powerpoint 6a-AppA]

A. We can learn - the Limits of Self Knowledge

1. Only God really knows us...

Look up Jeremiah 17:9-10

The heart is deceitful above all things
and beyond cure.

Who can understand it?

¹⁰“I the LORD search the heart
and examine the mind,

to reward each person according to their conduct,
according to what their deeds deserve.”

Lookup Psalm 139:1-6

¹You have searched me, LORD,
and you know me.

²You know when I sit and when I rise;
you perceive my thoughts from afar.

³You discern my going out and my lying down;
you are familiar with all my ways.

⁴Before a word is on my tongue
you, LORD, know it completely.

⁵You hem me in behind and before,
and you lay your hand upon me.

⁶Such knowledge is too wonderful for me,
too lofty for me to attain.

Look up Hebrews 4:13

¹³Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

2. We can - look to God's Word to see ourselves as we truly are:

Lookup Hebrews 4:12

¹²For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

3. Look to God in prayer for help

Jesus gives advice in verse 38

Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing but the flesh is weak

Notice too how Jesus prayed in this passage:

It was passionate and persistent

It was prayer that submitted to the Father's will

It was prayer which strengthened Him - He was then able to get up and face His betrayer

Do we pray like that?

Lead us not into temptation...

Deliver us from the evil one...

Lookup Psalm 19:12

¹² But who can discern their own errors?

Forgive my hidden faults.

Look up Psalm 139:23-24

²³ Search me, God, and know my heart;

test me and know my anxious thoughts.

²⁴ See if there is any offensive way in me,

and lead me in the way everlasting.

Lookup 2 Thes 3:5

⁵ May the Lord direct your hearts into God's love and Christ's perseverance.

[Powerpoint 6b-AppB]

B. We can learn to be aware of missing comfort because of our selfishness

Jesus spoke of His resurrection - in v28 -

²⁸But after I have risen, I will go ahead of you into Galilee."

But they all said they missed that because they were too busy defending themselves
- about not disowning Jesus in verse 31

Perhaps we miss God's comforting words too?

Lookup Romans 8:31-39

³¹ What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³² He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?³³ Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who then is the one who condemns? No one. 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. ³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? ³⁶ As it is written:

"For your sake we face death all day long;
we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered."

³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, ³⁹ neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Lookup 2 Cor 1:3-4

³ Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, ⁴ who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God.

[Powerpoint 6c-AppC

C. We can learn to be aware of Proud Assertions

Peter and the disciple proudly said they'd never disown Jesus - in v31

Their pride got the better of them

Lookup Proverbs 16:8

Pride goes before destruction,
a haughty spirit before a fall.

[Powerpoint 6d-AppD

D. We can learn and note how quick the Lord was to forgive those who denied, deserted and fled. So He will do for us - if we are willing to repent and return to Him

Let's not forget something important about Peter

His heart was in the right place

So too the other disciples

Better a Peter with a flaming heart of love for Jesus, than someone like Judas with a cold heart of hatred

Let's only condemn Peter

If we've never broken a promise,

If we've never been disloyal in thought or action or promise

Peter loved Peter, and even though Peter's love failed, it rose again to love again

That's what we must do when we fail Jesus

Say sorry and love again

Pray we can be more like Jesus...

Questions

Let's pray...