



Part 3: You've Drifted Away From God

Three lessons from Peter's story:

1. Recognize _____

- _____
"Everyone else may stumble in their faith, but I will not!" Mark 14:29 (NIV)
- _____
"Couldn't you stay awake with Me for one hour?" Mark 14:37 (NIV)
- _____
"Peter followed him at a distance. . . there he sat with the guards and warmed himself at the fire... he swore, 'I do not know this man!'" Mark 14:54, 71 (NIV)

2. Realize _____

- "The Lord longs to be gracious to you." Isa. 30:18 (NIV)
- "But go, tell his disciples and Peter. 'He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.'" Mark 16:7 (NIV)

3. Return _____

- "...Jesus asked Peter a third time, 'Do you love me?' Peter said, 'Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you.' Jesus said, 'Feed my sheep.'" John 21:17 (NIV)
- "Now is the time. Never forget the warning, "Today if you hear God's voice speaking to you, do not harden your heart. . ." Heb. 3:15 (LB)
- "No matter how deep the stain of your sins, I can take it out and make you clean as freshly fallen snow." Isa. 1:19 (LB)
- Communion reminds me...
- God's love is unconditional.
"He saved us, not because of the righteous things we did, but because of His mercy." Titus 3:5 (NIV) "God's compassion never ends." Lam. 3:22 (LB)
 - My sin has already been paid for.
"He canceled the record that contained the charges against us. He took it and destroyed it by nailing it to Christ's cross." Col. 2:14 (NLT)
 - God doesn't hold a grudge
"There is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus." Rom. 8:1

Daily Meditations

Brief daily Bible studies and questions for reflection on today's topic!

This week's memory verse:

"No matter how deep the stain of your sins, I can take it out and make you clean as freshly fallen snow." Isa. 1:19 (LB)

Monday

Look over the notes and verses from this past weekend. What jumped out at you as a matter of application for your life?

Do you sense an area where you have drifted away from God? What is it?

Read part of Peter's story in Mark 14:27-42. How does Peter see himself in relation to the other disciples? How do you think this contributed to his later fall?

Why do you think Jesus warned the disciples (especially Peter) of their coming denial?

How does 1 Corinthians 10:12 relate to this passage?

From this story, what key thing do you learn about Jesus related to our stumbles?

Thank God today for His understanding and mercy toward you, even though He knows in advance you will fall! Ask God to help you not focus your confidence in your own ability to stand strong, but on His power in and through you!

Tuesday

When in your life were you the most disappointed with yourself? Read more of Peter's story in Mark 14:66-72 for an account of such a moment in his life.

Why do you think Peter denies Christ?

How are the three denials different? How were they similar?

Have you ever felt that your failures had made it impossible for you to be used by Jesus again? When?

What "rooster" reminds you of failure and guilt? What do you do then?

Bring to God right now a moment like this that may still haunt you from your own life. Tell God how you feel about it. Accept His love and forgiveness.

Wednesday

Read John 21:1-23. What does Jesus do to emphasize to the disciples (who had all run away from Him) and Peter specifically that they are all still “on the team”, so to speak?

How is Jesus’ discussion with Peter similar to one He might have with you?

Just when you think Peter is finally behaving like a grown-up, he once again acts immature (as we all do in our unguarded moments) by demonstrating envy of John in verses 20 and 21. Why did Peter ask about John right away?

What is the crucial issue revealed in Jesus’ response to Peter?

Have you compared yourself to someone else and wondered why they seemed to have it better than you? What does Jesus’ response to Peter teach you about this?

Ask God to help you know how to help people you know who may be drifting away from Jesus. Pray for them now. Ask God to help you understand that Christ’s response to you is the same as His response to Peter: He focuses on the current state of your love for him, not past sins, which He forgives.

Thursday

Read Isaiah 30:15-19. Are the people to whom God is speaking here rebellious or obedient?

What does God say will be the consequence of their disobedience?

What does verse 18 tell you about what God longs to do?

Why do you think we sometimes suppose God longs to punish us, rather than longs to show us mercy?

God always is honest about the consequences of our disobedience, even as He longs to show us mercy and forgiveness. What do you need to repent of today? Bring this before the Lord, thanking Him for His mercy and forgiveness!

Friday

Read Titus 3:3-8. Why does God save people?

What is the result of being justified by faith?

What difference does it make to you (especially when have drifted away) to know that God justifies you because of His great mercy, and not because of anything you do?

Say “thank you” to God today for His saving grace for you!

Saturday

Take the time today to go over any devotions you may have missed and to complete your memorization of this week’s verse. Pray for the ministry this weekend! Thanks!

Some questions this week adapted from *The Serendipity Bible* and *NavPress Lessonmaker*