



## Repentance Tabernacle Church

RepentanceTabernacle@gmail.com  
www.RepentanceTabernacle.org (984) 369-5171

### Even Peter!

**Focus Verse:** John 18:27 - Peter then denied again: and immediately the cock crew.

**Lesson Text:** John 18:15-27

**Truth About God:** God forgives us of all our sins.

**Truth For My Life:** I will repent any time I sin or let God down.

Peter was Jesus' shepherd-in-training. In spite of his impulsive nature, Peter had a shepherd's instinct. He often spoke on behalf of the other disciples; he sometimes led the disciples. And Jesus explicitly commanded Peter: "*Feed my sheep*" (John 21:16-17). Jesus called Peter to be a shepherd made in the mold of the Good Shepherd, who laid down His life. Jesus even prophesied to Peter that he would die as Jesus died—hands outstretched on a cross (John 21:18).

But Peter had a personality problem. He could say the most wonderful words, make the most sacred promises, and express personal devotion to those he loved. But when it came time to live up to his own words, he would turn out to be just like many of us: paralyzed by fear, seeking to thread the almost impossibly tiny needle between obedience and self-preservation. However, a shepherd's primary gift to the flock is simply abiding or remaining, with the flock, no matter what. In good times and bad times, the shepherd abides with the flock.

When the crowd outside the upper room on the **Day of Pentecost** mocked the disciples, Peter stood up and preached: "*God hath made the same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ*" (Acts 2:36). In Acts 3, Peter preached and was arrested and questioned by the Sanhedrin, the same ruling body who had Jesus crucified. After being released, Peter went right back to preaching Jesus. In Acts 5, after performing miracles in Jesus' name, Peter and the disciples were arrested, then set free by an angel. Instead of running away, Peter stayed and was again brought to the Sanhedrin for interrogation. But he was filled with the Holy Ghost and boldness, and he answered: "*We ought to obey God rather than men*" (Acts 5:29).

In Peter's later years he wrote two letters to a group of churches. As his life unfolded, he refused to let his failures define him. Instead, he let Jesus' call define him: "*The good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep*" (John 10:11). Peter understood his own propensity to make big promises and then fail to live up to them when the wolf showed up, but in the end, he allowed Jesus' call on him to define him.

A life of faith is sometimes a life of highs and lows, but it should not be a life of walking away from God, even though we are invited to walk back to God. During those low times, if we struggle with our faith, may we repent, ask God to firm up our faith, and be faithful to the One who is forever faithful.

Perhaps we have all faced ridicule or even full-scale persecution for our faith. Our human nature wants to run, but God is calling us to remain faithful to Him. We promised we would follow Him, and sometimes following Him leads us to danger where we may lose our reputation, our influence, our job, our position, our friends, our family, even our life. **In those times, let us cling to God's grace and to our faith, and be faithful as Jesus has been faithful to us.**

Rise up and return to your calling. As Satan tried to sift Peter as wheat—subjecting Peter to severe tribulation in hopes of seeing him reduced to rubble—so his purpose is to cause our faith to crumble. Satan would have you place your faith in yourself, which cannot withstand the trials of this world. But as big as your problems may seem, Satan has a bigger problem: the prayers of Jesus. Jesus said to Peter, "*I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren*" (Luke 22:32). **Place your faith in God. Let Him define you.**

Stand at the altar as the **Bishop and Shepherd** of your soul comes down from the pulpit to stand in front of you. He places His nail-scarred hand on your forehead and closes His eyes. Jesus is praying for you. Could there be any better prayer? Could there be any better sign in your favor? Even if you started off poorly like Simon Peter, you can end well.