

## For Reflection:

In this past week's text, we have considered the trials of both Jesus and Peter. Sin is in essence a denial of God—an assertion of the self. It is saying God is not enough. We don't trust God and we believe in our own ability to handle life. We can see how Peter is guilty of this.

Jesus, on the other hand, is blameless (without sin). He accepts God as Sovereign (Mk 14:35). He trusts God so much he was willing (and able) to suffer to the point of death (Mk 14:36).

Peter spent a lot of time with Jesus but was too focused on the matters of this world. He wanted to build a monument at Jesus' transfiguration (9:5); wouldn't hear about Jesus' impending death (8:32); slept and couldn't pray (14:32).

Jesus "watched" the way God worked in the world around him. Did you ever notice how often Jesus' conversations with God include thanksgiving? Jesus "prayed" acknowledging his dependence on God. How much might our faith grow if we stopped trying to be our own god?

Peter gave up everything to follow Jesus, everything, that is, except for his need to be appreciated and rewarded for it (Mk 10:28). Peter was still "self" centered.

Jesus gave up everything for Peter (period). He was hoping Peter would get the real meaning of the term "everything."

## **Today's Scripture:**

*This day I call the heavens and the earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live and that you may love the Lord your God, listen to his voice, and hold fast to him. For the Lord is your life....(Deut 30:19-20 NIV).*

## **Questions to Ponder:**

Does God want us to suffer? Do you want your loved ones to suffer? Do you wish you could take away their pain? What do you think are the dangers of self-centeredness?

## **Prayer:**

Sovereign God, the ways I have tried to be my own god lately are....(your list here)....Forgive me. Help me recognize that I am doing this, and show me how to overcome it. Amen.

## Practice:

Fixed Hour Praying – to stop work and pray throughout the day.

Set regular and consistent “hours” (appointments) to attend to God through prayer. Set your phone to “call” you to keep company with Jesus. Develop the ability to hear a word from God in the midst of daily activities.

(Adapted from *The Spiritual Discipline Handbook*, Adele Ahlberg Calhoun/Fixed Hour Prayer)

