

And Peter Went Out, And Wept Bitterly

Luke 22:47-62 NKJV - Betrayal and Arrest in Gethsemane - And while He was still speaking, behold, a multitude; and he who was called Judas, one of the twelve, went before them and drew near to Jesus to kiss Him. ⁴⁸ But Jesus said to him, "Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?"

⁴⁹ When those around Him saw what was going to happen, they said to Him, "Lord, shall we strike with the sword?" ⁵⁰ And one of them struck the servant of the high priest and cut off his right ear.

⁵¹ But Jesus answered and said, "Permit even this." And He touched his ear and healed him.

⁵² Then Jesus said to the chief priests, captains of the temple, and the elders who had come to Him, "Have you come out, as against a robber, with swords and clubs? ⁵³ When I was with you daily in the temple, you did not try to seize Me. But this is your hour, and the power of darkness."

Peter Denies Jesus, and Weeps Bitterly - ⁵⁴ Having arrested Him, they led *Him* and brought Him into the high priest's house. But Peter followed at a distance. ⁵⁵ Now when they had kindled a fire in the midst of the courtyard and sat down together, Peter sat among them. ⁵⁶ And a certain servant girl, seeing him as he sat by the fire, looked intently at him and said, "This man was also with Him."

⁵⁷ But he denied Him, saying, "Woman, I do not know Him."

⁵⁸ And after a little while another saw him and said, "You also are of them." But Peter said, "Man, I am not!"

⁵⁹ Then after about an hour had passed, another confidently affirmed, saying, "Surely this *fellow* also was with Him, for he is a Galilean." ⁶⁰ But Peter said, "Man, I do not know what you are saying!"

Immediately, while he was still speaking, the rooster crowed. ⁶¹ And the Lord turned and looked at Peter. Then Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how He had said to him, "Before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times."

⁶² ***So Peter went out and wept bitterly.*** - ****Wept - Sob, Wail - Bitterly – violently***

What would cause a person to behave in this manner?

- What would cause a person to sob in the presence of God?
- What would cause them to wail in repentance?
- Weeping bitterly for forgiveness?

Peter realized what he had done wrong.

- He came to the realization that **he had Sinned against God!**

Judas also came to that realization that night,

- But he could not find it in himself **to repent**,
- So the bible tells us that he went out and **hung himself**.

Romans 3:23 – NKJV - lets us know that... - for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

Who has? ALL!

- All – Everybody - Everyone of us here today.
- **At some point in our lives we have denied a relationship with him.**

But what would cause Peter to weep bitterly?

- Here was a **strong man**.
- A **fisherman** by trade.
- Many a storm he weathered out in the sea.
- Here was someone who would fight to defend Jesus.
- But we find him **weeping bitterly**
- **Could it be that he realized how much Jesus loved him.**
- Could it be that he realized that **when no one cared for him...*Jesus cared for him*.**
- **Could it be that he realized that he had just denied his greatest friend.**

Let me tell you why Peter wept bitterly...Jesus had told him in –

Matt 10:33 – NKJV - But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven.

He had denied Jesus 3 times in one night!!!

Peter realized that there was no way in the world he could get into Heaven now.

He sealed his own fate.

- He **shut** the door of heaven on himself.
- He **denied** the savior of the world 3 times.
- And **before who???** A little girl!!!

- He **wasn't** being tortured.
- His life **wasn't** on the line.
- No one held a sword to his throat and **made him** say it.
- He **did it** on his own.
- Of his own **choice**.
- **And now we find him** weeping bitterly before God.

How many remember that Jesus had given Peter the keys to the kingdom of heaven?

- Can I suggest that ***if Peter didn't get things right*** with God that night none of us would of had a chance to get into Heaven.
- If ***he didn't repent*** that night...no one after him **could have** repented.
- ***We don't realize*** the effect we have on other people around us.
- We don't realize that **their salvation** depends on our salvation.
- They **won't** follow Christ ***if they have no example***.

Up to this point in Peters life we don't find him repenting.

- We see him hanging with Jesus.
- We see him at the healings.
- We see him walking with Jesus,
- We even see him handing out the bread and fish that would feed thousands.
- He was ***there for the miracles*** - - -
- **BUT we don't find Peter anywhere** in fact we don't find any of the disciples repenting for their sins.

He told them all that repentance should be preached...

- Yet **none of them** had ever repented.
- Up to this point they were satisfied with just being a part of Jesus' ministry.
- But this night Peter realized that he had to become a result of Jesus ministry.

There is a difference -

- It is important to be a part of the ministry, but it's far more important to be a result of the ministry.
- You cannot minister to anyone until you your self are ministered to.
- How could he stand on the day of Pentecost and preach repentance if he himself had not repented of such a terrible thing?
- How could he stand there with a straight face and say repent and be baptized if he himself did not weep bitterly that night?

Can I tell you something today?

- People don't like to be told anything!

But can I tell you something by the authority of the word of God???

- We need to weep before God from time to time.
- We need to find a place like Peter did and repent for our wrongs.
- Chances are we've offended God many times this week.
- Profanity – Lust - Lying - Cheating

Did you know that he won't even hear your prayers if there is sin in your life?

1 Peter 3:12 - NKJV

¹² For the eyes of the LORD *are* on the righteous, And His ears *are open* to their prayers; But the face of the LORD *is* against those who do evil.”

“The reason some people haven't found a place to repent of their sins is that they haven't yet realized how much their sins offend God.”

I get so tired of hearing people say things like:

- Well *I don't believe* God is that kind of God.
- Or *I believe* this or I believe that.
- *It does not matter* what you believe.
- And it *does not matter* what I believe.
- “The Bible is the only book that has the words to eternal life.”
- And *regardless of* our own personal beliefs,
- It is by **these commandments** that *we will someday* be judged.

There is no second chance after death.

- There is no purgatory.
- There is no help for the one who does not repent.

When Peter denied Jesus...he looked up and *his eyes met with Jesus's eyes* -

- And they shared a communication that words could not utter.
- Peter saw the pain his denying caused Jesus.
- He realized just *how much he hurt God*.

Here is our problem -

- We know what it's like to be offended.
- **We get mad if** someone hurts us.
- We shake our fists and say all kinds of things **when someone does us wrong,**
- *We expect God* to *sit back and do nothing* **when we deny him every day.**
- **We expect him to be quiet** when we curse his name and sin against him.

Psalm 7:11 - NKJV

¹¹ God *is* a just judge, And God is angry *with the wicked* **every day**.

- **Every day** - Not a day goes by *that God isn't angry* with a sinner.

People say well he's a **God of love**.

Yes he is....but he also hates them that sin against him

1 Corinthians 6:9-10 - NKJV

⁹ Do you not know that the unrighteous **will not inherit the kingdom of God**? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, ¹⁰ nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners **will inherit the kingdom of God**.

Galatians 5:19-21 - NKJV

¹⁹ Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, ²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, ²¹ envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told *you* in time past, that those who practice such things **will not inherit the kingdom of God**.

Revelation 20:11-15 – NKJV - The Great White Throne Judgment

¹¹ Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. ¹² And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is *the Book of Life*. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. ¹³ The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. ¹⁴ Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

¹⁵ **And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.**

When Peter looked up after he had denied Jesus for the third time...

- I believe **he saw more than displeasure** on Jesus' face.
- I believe he saw **the anger of God**.
- I believe he saw **the kind of look we give our children** that say's "now you're gonna get it"

- I believe that **Peter realized** that his laziness towards the things of God had gone too far.

That's why he's weeping bitterly.

- He's making things right with God.

That's why a grown man's sobbing and shaking.

- That's why the tears
- That's why the weeping.
- He knew ***he did wrong***.
- And ***he knows*** that if he repents, God will forgive him.

CLOSE:

1 John 1:9-10 - NKJV

9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰ If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.

- I wonder if there is anyone ***who will come and kneel at this altar.***
- I wonder if there is one person in this whole group of people ***who would confess your faults to God*** and make things right.
- You think by holding it in that ***everything will be ok,***
- But by holding it in ***you offend God.***