

BROKEN VOWS WILL ONLY LEAD TO BROKEN HEARTS  
LUKE 22:24-34; 54-62

Introduction:

1. The conversion of the Apostle Peter from a nominal, self-righteous, and hypocritical child of God to a sold-out, totally committed Christian, came about because his heart was broken the night before Jesus was crucified.
2. Earlier that evening Jesus had told Peter, along with all the disciples who were gathered in the upper room, that they faced a great danger from the devil. **v. 31** *And the Lord said, "Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat.*
3. Jesus went on to tell Peter about his impending denial of Jesus. **v. 34** *Then He said, "I tell you, Peter, the rooster shall not crow this day before you will deny three times that you know Me."*
4. Peter, like so many of God's children today, manifested his arrogant pride by foolishly declaring his loyalty to Jesus. **v. 33** *But he said to Him, "Lord, I am ready to go with You, both to prison and to death."*
5. According to Matthew's account, all the disciples agreed with Peter.
6. Broken vows will only lead to broken hearts.

I. BROKEN VOWS ARE MADE BECAUSE OF IGNORANCE.

- A. The disciples were ignorant of many things. They were ignorant of their own weaknesses and of the devil's strength.
- B. They would not accept Jesus' prophecy of the OT Scriptures. cf. **Matthew 26:31** *Then Jesus said to them, "All of you will be made to stumble because of Me this night, for it is written: 'I will strike the Shepherd, and the sheep of the flock shall be scattered.'*
- C. They were willfully ignorant because they trusted in their own understanding. **Proverbs 3:5** *Trust in the Lord with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding...*
- D. Children of God today manifest their ignorance when they claim to be wise, courageous, and self-willed, while in the eyes of Jesus we are really foolish, cowardly, and weak.
- E. Broken vows will only lead to broken hearts.

II. BROKEN VOWS ARE MADE BECAUSE WE DO NOT TRUST IN THE LEADERSHIP OF GOD'S SPIRIT.

- A. After Pentecost those eleven men who had previously deserted Jesus in fear and shame were hardly recognizable.
- B. They boldly preached Jesus and were arrested, whipped, imprisoned, and some were even put to death, yet they continued on. All of this was because they trusted in the power of God whose Spirit indwelled them and gave them courage, boldness, and dedication.
- C. But even the power of the indwelling Spirit is no guarantee of faithfulness. **Galatians 2:11-13** *Now when Peter had come to Antioch, I withstood him to his face, because he was to be blamed; for before certain men came from James, he would eat with the Gentiles; but when they came, he withdrew and separated himself, fearing those who were of the circumcision. And the rest of the Jews also played the hypocrite with him, so that even Barnabas was carried away with their hypocrisy.*
- D. When making promises to God we must seek His guidance, His leadership, and His power, or else we will not keep them.
- E. Broken vows will only lead to broken hearts.

### III. BROKEN VOWS ARE MADE BECAUSE WE RELY UPON OUR OWN WISDOM AND RESOURCES.

- A. Peter had followed Jesus and His captors as far as the high priest's mansion.
- B. When confronted by a servant girl as to being a follower of Jesus, Peter vehemently denied knowing Him. **vv. 56-57** *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." But he denied Him, saying, "Woman, I do not know Him."*
- C. Again, a second time Peter refused to acknowledge his relationship to his Savior. **v. 58** *And after a little while another saw him and said, "You also are of them." But Peter said, "Man, I am not!"*
- D. Because he was relying on his own wisdom and resources, Peter did not have the courage to publically confess Jesus.
- E. As much as we Christians might like to think of ourselves as being spiritually strong, those who are mature in Christ know from experience that in ourselves, we are weak. We would like to think that we would never deny Jesus, but we know that every believer struggles from time to time to speak up and be a living testimony to the power of Jesus in us.
- G. Broken vows will only lead to broken hearts.

### IV. THE BROKEN VOW.

- A. Then came the third denial. Look at Matthew's account. **Matthew 26:74** *Then he began to curse and swear, saying, "I do not know the Man!" Immediately a rooster crowed.*
- B. Immediately Jesus' prophecy to Peter came true. **v. 60** *But Peter said, "Man, I do not know what you are saying!" Immediately, while he was still speaking, the rooster crowed.*
- C. Then the look from Jesus. **v. 61a** *And the Lord turned and looked at Peter.*
- D. Peter's reaction. **vv. 61b-62** *Then Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how He had said to him, "Before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times." So Peter went out and wept bitterly.*
- E. Broken vows will only lead to broken hearts.

#### Conclusion:

1. **Ecclesiastes 5:4-7** *When you make a vow to God, do not delay to pay it; For He has no pleasure in fools. Pay what you have vowed— Better not to vow than to vow and not pay. Do not let your mouth cause your flesh to sin, nor say before the messenger of God that it was an error. Why should God be angry at your excuse and destroy the work of your hands? For in the multitude of dreams and many words there is also vanity. But fear God.*
2. **Matthew 5:33-37** *Again you have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform your oaths to the Lord.' But I say to you, do not swear at all: neither by heaven, for it is God's throne; nor by the earth, for it is His footstool; nor by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. Nor shall you swear by your head, because you cannot make one hair white or black. But let your 'Yes' be 'Yes,' and your 'No,' 'No.' For whatever is more than these is from the evil one.*
3. Besides the certainty of Jesus' resurrection and the empowering of His Spirit within them, the most thing the disciples needed was an honest awareness of their own weaknesses.
4. This is a lesson we also must learn. It is not difficult to stand firm in doctrine and moral standards when we are among fellow believers, but when we are out in the unbelieving world and are separated from the strength of Christian fellowship, we soon discover how weak we are.
5. The vows we make to our Lord, when they are broken, will only lead to a broken heart.