

Mark 14:27-31 Were You There When He Said They'd Fall Away Feb. 24, 2021
at Immanuel, Mercedes

27) Then Jesus said to them, "All of you will fall away because of Me this night, for it is written: 'I will strike the Shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered.' 28) But after I have been raised, I will go before you to Galilee." 29) But Peter said to Him, "Even if all fall away, yet I will not." 30) And Jesus said to him, "Amen, I say to you that today, even this night, before the rooster crows twice, you will deny Me three times." 31) But he spoke more vehemently, "If I have to die with You I will not deny You!" And they all said likewise.

INTRO: How would you or I have reacted to Jesus' announcement if we had been there? This is not about **only** rash, impetuous, over-confident Peter. V.31 says, "And they all said likewise." That is, all **those** disciples. And you?

I. JESUS' WARNING WAS PROMPTED BY THEIR PROMISES TO REMAIN FAITHFUL

A. Disciples showed true love, devotion, commitment to Jesus

1. Peter: even if I have to die with You
2. a commendable motive; he meant it sincerely
3. good intentions are inadequate in true religion (All God expects is that you try your best?)
4. not unlike campaign promises and good intentions (I'm from the government and I'm here to help you)

B. Too much self-reliance was evident here

1. presumptuous, ripe for Satan's picking
2. warning was scarcely heard among self-assertions
3. Paul also advised (Rom.12:3) not to think of self too highly

C. Ignorance of self, and of what lay ahead

1. we never completely know our own weaknesses
2. whether in our temptations, or in life-threatening situation
3. God may permit a great sin to show us our weakness, need to rely on Him
4. prompting us to turn to Him in confession, faith, trust

D. Contradicting Jesus' word

1. You will deny me; no we won't
2. trusting own opinion and feelings above word of God
3. are you there with Peter, promising faithfulness?
4. v.31b – and they all said likewise

III. HENCE JESUS' WARNING ABOUT FALLING AWAY

A. Based on Jesus' divine foreknowledge

1. Jesus did not **make** Peter deny Jesus
2. every sin is our own choice; Satan merely makes it look desirable
3. Jesus warns; advises watchfulness
4. Satanic triumvirate is still at work, even today

B. Jesus' warning is motivated by His loving concern

1. as was, and to the extent of, His whole Passion
2. Son of God was suffering all this for **us** sinners
3. we were there all the time, represented by all our sis
4. He warns **us** in order to prevent harm, as do we with a child
5. and are we not His beloved children?

C. He prepares us for repentance by forewarning

1. tells of rooster crowing; a trigger for memory
2. as are parents' and pastors' warnings; this sermon, Lenten series
3. Peter later wept bitterly; the warning worked!

III. CAUSING **US** TO REVIEW SOME OF OUR PROMISES

A. Such as our confirmation vow

1. "...suffer all, even death, rather than fall away..."
2. answer was, "Yes, with the help of God"
3. and isn't **every** single sin a "falling away"?
4. and worse, a huge % **really** falls away by age 18
5. "...be diligent in the use of the means of grace..."
6. i.e., sermons, Bible reading and study; Holy Communion
7. and finally, confess Him before men; outside the church building

B. For some of us, promises in the form of marriage vows

1. today often broken before marriage begins; premarital sex
2. sad rate of divorce, infidelity; Jesus also said 'look with lust'
3. Bridegroom's norm: lovingly submitting self for bride
4. forgiving (all) others, as God has forgiven us

C. So, where are **you**? Promising? Heeding warnings?

1. Jesus went to Gethsemane, Calvary, **knowing** they'd fall away
2. Jesus **did** keep all of His promises for us; for you
3. He forgave Peter who wept bitterly
4. He forgives each of us, just as surely as if we had been there in person

CONCLUSION: Such a great love and sacrifice for us makes us want to promise faithfulness to Him. We thrive on His word of forgiveness, and His sacraments which affirm His mercy and rejoice in His patience and forgiveness. Amen.