

Luke
See Jesus
The Danger of Sinful, Self-Deception
Luke 22:54-62

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What can we learn from **Luke 22:54-62** about our own sinful, self-deception?

I. You'll Shut Down What He Says Instead Of Learning Who You Are

To understand what's happening with Peter we have to go to the upper room the night before where Jesus tried to help Peter know what was coming his way, but Peter wasn't having it! Look at **Luke 22:31-34**.

Mark 14:29 "Peter said to Him, 'Even though they all fall away, I will not.'"

Arrogantly, he says this to Jesus in front of the other disciples. Then when Jesus comes right back at him and says "Peter, this very night before the rooster crows twice you're going to deny me three times," he gets more agitated with Jesus.

Mark 14:31 "But he said emphatically, 'If I must die with You, I will not deny You.'"

He's arguing with the very one he said is the Son of God, the Messiah, our Lord! It's the same problem we still have today. Your own thoughts about you are not the most accurate!

Jeremiah 17:9 "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick..."

Proverbs 28:26 "He who trusts in his own heart is a fool..."

1 Corinthians 10:12 (NIV) "So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall!"

II. You'll Act In Your Own Power Instead Of Asking For His Help

When you act in your own power you'll be fighting the wrong enemy with the wrong weapons at the wrong time and usually with the wrong attitude.

2 Corinthians 10:3-5 "For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. ⁴For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. ⁵We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ."

III. You'll Go Down Really Hard But Can Then Be Used By Him

Luke 22:56-57 "Then a servant girl, seeing him as he sat in the light and looking closely at him, said, 'This man also was with Him.' ⁵⁷ But he denied it, saying, 'Woman, I do not know Him.'"

A. Look At How Quickly He Goes Down

He was caught off guard in the courtyard and began to fall apart with the first question from a servant girl. **Matthew** tells us that when he got to his third denial he was raging and shouting with cursing and swearing.

B. But He Doesn't Stay Down

Often the boldest believers are the ones who know they've been the biggest sinners because they're broken, humble, and dependent on Him as they've tasted grace in the face of their sin.

Peter was shattered and broken! Yet within weeks, Peter was the leader of a brand-new movement called Christianity where he stood and preached boldly to 3,000 people and stood in front of civil and religious leaders and saying, "You can threaten me, beat me, or imprison me, but I can't stop talking about Jesus because He has changed my life!"

1. Your Savior Never Stops Loving You

Luke 22:61 "And the Lord turned and looked at Peter..."

Through Jesus' swollen eyes, Peter would have seen love, not hate, because Jesus had already prayed for him before he ever denied Him.

When you pray for someone your heart moves towards them and you love them! Jesus loved Peter before he failed and He loves him now, in the midst of it, because His love is not like ours!

"On the whole, God's love for us is a much safer subject to think about than our love for Him... But the great thing to remember is that, though our feelings come and go, His love for us does not. It is not wearied by our sins, or our indifference; and, therefore, it is quite relentless in its determination that we shall be cured of those sins, at whatever cost to us, at whatever cost to Him." - C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*

2. Your Failure Doesn't Have To Be Final

Luke 22:62 "And he went out and wept bitterly."

Something died in Peter that desperately needed to die – his high opinion of himself, his own strengths, and his own abilities. It led to a radically different way of life!

In **John 21:15-19**, Jesus singles out Peter, to ask him three times – one for each denial – "Peter, do you love Me?" And then three times He tells him, "Feed My sheep."

Jesus is telling him that He's not given up on him and still has work for him to do.

3. Your Tears Will Have To Include Repentance

Your tears could be filled with sorrow and self-pity that still never lead you to repentance and real change. Tears alone tell us nothing. It's what you do next that tells us what kind of tears were rolling down your face. When Peter began to weep, he began to repent because of what he did next with his life.

When you take failure and mix it together in a vat of repentance, along with the grace of God in the face of your sin, it turns into gold because it turns into humility, compassion, and self-awareness as to how much you need Him. And that's when He can use you for His glory.

Keep in mind that two disciples crashed and burned on that same night! But what happened next was very different. **Judas betrayed** Jesus, had deep regrets, and then killed himself. **Peter betrayed** Jesus, wept bitterly, and then lived radically different. There's a huge difference between worldly sorrow and godly sorrow.

2 Corinthians 7:10-11 (NIV) "Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death. ¹¹ See what this godly sorrow has produced in you: what earnestness, what eagerness to clear yourselves, what indignation, what alarm, what longing, what concern, what readiness to see justice done. At every point you have proved yourselves to be innocent in this matter."

God's not looking for perfection. He's looking for humility, honesty, and brokenness where you finally see your great need for Him. See **Psalm 51:17**.