

**Greetings from God the Father and from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and from the Holy Spirit. Amen**

Christ came for all

Luke 22:1—23:56

Luke 22:1-6, 28-33, 47-62 (the handout)

We hear Peter's words of denial in Luke 22: 60-62: ***But Peter said, "Man, I do not know what you are talking about." And immediately, while he was still speaking, the rooster crowed. And the Lord turned and looked at Peter. And Peter remembered the saying of the Lord, how he had said to him, "Before the rooster crows today, you will deny me three times." And he went out and wept bitterly.***

In the Gospel of Luke, in the previous chapters, Peter tells Jesus, ***"Lord, I am ready to go with you both to prison and to death"***. (Luke 22:33) In today's Gospel, we hear Peter's denial, ***"Man, I do not know what you are talking about."*** (Luke 22:60). Three times Peter denies knowing Jesus. Have you made bold statements or bargain with the Lord? Lord I will always tell others about you! ..... Lord I will do this for you if you only do this for me ..... When you are with your friends and they make a joke about Christ or they swear, you say nothing. You are with

family or friends and they say that only weak people would believe in Christ and you say nothing. When you bargain with Lord, you promise to do something for Lord, and next time you have a chance to do it for the Lord, you do not. All these acts or lack of action are all acts of denial, you are no better than Judas or Peter, they were only thinking of themselves. Judas was looking for monetary gain or to promote the over throw of the Roman government. Peter thinking that he knew a better way than Jesus is doing to bring about the kingdom of God. They sinned, you have sinned. As like Peter you may not realize what you are doing until Jesus looked at him ..... you may not realize that you have sinned or are sinning until you see Jesus and He looks at you through His Word. For what did Peter see in Jesus' eyes when he saw them? ..... not anger ..... but pity, compassion and love. .... because of Jesus' look ..... Because of Jesus, Peter went out and wept bitterly.

Peter was deeply sorrowful for his denial. Peter confessed that Jesus was the Son of the living God beforehand and now he denies knowing Jesus. Peter's life at that moment must have seemed to be in disarray. Have you let your life go off on a direction without Christ? Or, it seems that the Lord is hidden from you for awhile ..... God seems to be distant from you – because you have distanced yourself from Him; maybe

your sinful flesh once again is in charge of you. Your sinful flesh's point of view may dominate your vision rather than allowing God to show you His beautiful plan for you. When you view your life from your sinful view, you question God's purpose for you, you question if God even loves you, You even question if Christ really died for you.

Turn your view toward God's view for you. Turn your eyes of faith to Jesus' eyes today, His Word. .... Jesus is offering forgiveness for your sins ..... He is offering mercy, compassion and love for you.

Allow God's Word to show you that you are heading off in your own direction, your own selfish path. Turn away from sin, turn to the Lord today, as Peter did later in the Gospel of Luke ..... Lean on the Lord ..... Peter did not stay in the Lord by his own strength but the Lord provided strength for Peter. The Lord tells Peter, **Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat, but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers.**" (Luke 22:31-32) The Lord held onto Peter, so he would not lose his faith. We know that the Lord was on Peter's side and the devil was against Peter. Christ offered Judas His forgiveness and His love. But Judas continued to reject Christ ..... Christ will not force anyone to turn to Him. Jesus once said that it was better that Judas

would have not been born. It is true that Jesus' statement indicates what Judas did was a sin and also Jesus' statement is expressing the grief for one that would be lost forever.

As like Peter, the Lord is on your side. Jesus helps Peter ..... Jesus was his strength and his Rock and refuge! Jesus is your strength, your Rock and your Refuge!

Palm Sunday is the beginning of Holy Week, The Passion of our Lord. Jesus humbled Himself when He entered Jerusalem, the city of peace, riding on a donkey. Jesus is coming for all – for you. He is coming not as a King which He is, but as a Savior, Who ***made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross*** (Phip 2:7–8). Christ came into our flesh to be your Savior. He came to die for the two betrayers, Judas and Peter, and for you and for all. Only in the Lord, can Salvation and life be found: ***See now that I, even I, am he, and there is no god beside me; I kill and I make alive; I wound and I heal; and there is none that can deliver out of my hand.*** (Deut 32:39).

Deuteronomy speaks of God's Love and compassion for His people. With just a look from our Lord, our hearts are wounded because of our sin – with

the preaching of the Law we are killed. But also in our Savior's look – in His Gospel – comes the healing balm of His pity, compassion, and love ... and the life-giving forgiveness and salvation that He worked on the Cross that Good Friday long ago. And none – not the devil, the world, or even your own sinful flesh – can deliver you ... rip you ... from His powerful, compassionate, nail-pierced hands. You are his people. This is what the Lord wanted Peter to strengthen his brothers with ..... the GREAT LOVE OF CHRIST FOR THEM, FOR YOU. No matter where you are in your life and what you have done or have not done, even if you have denied the Lord in your actions, lack of actions, or words, Jesus forgives you, Jesus still loves you. Jesus intercedes for you. Jesus wants you to be with Him at the heavenly banquet in His Father's Kingdom that is full of joy and will never end.

And may the peace of God, which is beyond all human comprehension, keep your hearts and minds through your faith in Christ Jesus. Amen