

prepared them for their failure, He also gave them hope that He would bring victory, forgiveness and restoration. Not because of what they would do, but because He would rise from the grave and meet them on the other side of death.

1 Corinthians 1:27 NIV - 27 But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong.

According to the verse above we may be foolish or weak in the eyes of the world, but God chose us in our foolishness and weakness to shame the world.

Can you name some things that seemed foolish or weak but God worked through to show His power? Is there anything in your life that looks like it beyond your hope "but only God" can redeem and restore by His resurrection power? If so, join with your group to pray for those situations.

WRAP-UP

In his pride, Peter didn't want to accept the fact that he was going to fail. He was so intent on defending his faithfulness that he missed Jesus' promise of faithfulness to him. Jesus wants us to know that even when we fail, He won't. Jesus was going ahead to meet them on the other side of death. In humility Jesus would face death on the cross, but would rise again because God's resurrection power would be shown perfect in His weakness.

MEMORY VERSE.

*But after I have risen, I will go ahead of you into Galilee."
Mark 14:28 NLT*

PRAYER (20 MIN)

Ask your group to pray for you regarding one area where you can apply this study in your life _____

Challenge.- Ask God to show you the weaknesses you may be in denial about, and ask Him to help you embrace your inability so that you can experience His ability.

"Your Failure is Showing" **Mark-Grace•Sacrifice•Hope- #3**

INTRODUCTION

Jesus' journey to the cross continued as He left the Passover meal and headed toward Gethsemane. Jesus had already revealed that Judas would betray Him, and as they were on their way to the garden, Jesus revealed even more to the disciples about what would happen. Jesus was aware they were destined to desert Him. He knew them better than they knew themselves. And the reaction of the disciples was not unlike our own reactions when we are confronted with our failures and weakness.

Ice Breaker

What has been the hardest thing you for you to ask for help with?

Key Passage

Mark 14:27 NLT - 27 On the way, Jesus told them, "All of you will desert me. For the Scriptures say, 'God will strike the Shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered.'

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. Unbelief or Weakness?

Mark 14:27-29 NIV - 27 "You will all fall away," Jesus told them, "for it is written: " 'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered.' 28 But after I have risen, I will go ahead of you into Galilee." 29 Peter declared, "Even if all fall away, I will not."

As they traveled to Gethsemane Jesus told His disciples that all of them would fall away and desert Him because it was prophesied that the sheep would scatter when the Shepherd was struck. The disciples were shocked. Peter's response was the first and most adamant.

What part of Jesus' statement had Peter responded to? What other significant information did he apparently miss?

Prophetic passages are not always easy to interpret but look at the passage in Zechariah which Jesus quoted on the way to Gethsemane. Why it was significant in light of the events about to unfold?

Zechariah 13:6-7 NIV - 6 If someone asks, 'What are these wounds on your body?' they will answer, 'The wounds I was given at the house of my friends.' 7 'Awake, sword, against my shepherd, against the man who is close to me!' declares the LORD Almighty. 'Strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered, and I will turn my hand against the little ones.

When confronted with the prediction of his weakness, Peter was unwilling to believe it, although it seems he was willing to believe that the others would fail stating "even though all fall away, I won't!" But what was Jesus really saying about them? He was not saying they would betray Him. During their Passover meal Jesus had told them He would be betrayed (*paradidōmi*) by **one**. Now he says they **all** will fall away (*skandalizō*) because of him. These two words have very different meanings.

Betray -paradidōmi v. 18- to deliver over treacherously
Fall away - skandalizō v. 27 – cause to stumble, tripped up, offended

There is a difference between unbelief and stumbling. Some who have studied Judas don't think he ever believed that Jesus was the Messiah, and his betrayal was a result of his unbelief.

When Peter declared his faith in Jesus as Messiah, how did Jesus identify that Judas was different from the rest of the disciples?

John 6:68-71 NLT - 68 Simon Peter replied, "Lord, to whom would we go? You have the words that give eternal life. 69 We believe, and we know you are the Holy One of God." 70 Then Jesus said, "I chose the twelve of you, but one is a devil." 71 He was speaking of Judas, son of Simon Iscariot, one of the Twelve, who would later betray him.

2. Embracing our Weakness

Mark 14:30-31 NLT - 30 Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, Peter-- this very night, before the rooster crows twice, you will deny three times that you even know me." 31 "No!" Peter declared emphatically. "Even if I have to die with you, I will never deny you!" And all the others vowed the same.

Clearly the disciples were not willing to admit that they might deny (*aparneomai*) Jesus. Admitting our failures and weakness is hard.

Jesus knew Peter better than Peter knew himself. Why do you think Jesus told Peter the details of his denial? After Jesus said "I tell you the truth", Peter replied "no". Peter's response is not unlike how we react when faced with our own failures. Discuss the way that shame, fear, anger, pride, or humility can affect our response to our failures.

2 Corinthians 12:9 ESV - 9 But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

In 2 Cor 12:9 God said "my power is made perfect in weakness." It is only when we surrender our efforts that God's grace and His power can be seen. The ultimate example of this was on the cross. If we continue to try to cover our weakness by hiding, denying, or lying about it, God's power has no opportunity to be demonstrated. Embracing your inability is a prerequisite to experiencing Christ's ability.

Has there been a time in your life that you surrendered your efforts to God and He demonstrated His power in your situation?

3. But That's Not the End

Mark 14:21a, 28 NLT - 21 For the Son of Man must die, as the Scriptures declared long ago....28 But after I have risen, I will go ahead of you into Galilee."

Yes, the disciples would fail. We will fail. But that is not the end of the story. What Peter didn't hear Jesus say, was "but...". Jesus not only