

Intro to Mark 14:26-50, 66-72Sunday, February 26, 2017
Pastor Don Denyes

It can be easy to look down on others when they fall. When there is a major scandal involving a celebrity, while we often lament the situation or the perpetrators, TV ratings go through the roof. Something fascinates us about the demise of another person—especially when that person is famous. And while we may not say it overtly, deep down many of us feel a sense of superiority or invincibility. We think that those kinds of scandalous things will never happen to us. We will never be in their predicament.

Yet, as has been proven time and time again, we do fall. We may not fall in the kinds of dramatic ways that we see people fall on TV. We may not fall in such a way that it will be recorded by other people. But we will most certainly fall in the eyes of the only One who can see all things. We were born sinners, and even those who repent and profess faith in Christ, still sin. As Christians, even our repentance is imperfect, which is all the more reason to praise God for His grace. But we ought to remember our indwelling sin, and our constant need for confession and repentance, especially when we read about the apostle Peter's fall.

Context

Jesus has just finished celebrating the Passover meal with His disciples where He gave new meaning to the meal. He Himself will be the Passover sacrifice. Yet despite His repeated references to His suffering, rejection, and death (8:31; 9:31; 10:33-34), Peter has not understood what Jesus is there to do. Following the meal, Jesus explains to them that they will reject Him along with the leaders of Israel and Rome. Peter, who to this point has spoken often on behalf of the twelve and who has demonstrated great faith at times, will prove to be the proud man who does not see his fall coming (see Proverbs 16:18).

Read and Reflect *(Use this section to write down any thoughts you had on the sermon. Make sure to note any questions you had about something in the passage or in the sermon.)*

Read Mark 14:26-50, 66-72

“When Believers Fall”

1. Boasting: should be humble (v. 29)
2. Sleeping: should be praying (v. 37)
3. Fighting: should be trusting (v. 47)
4. Hiding: should be courageous (v. 68)
5. Weeping: should be... weeping! (v. 72)

Read Luke 22:31-32

1. The Enemy's Plan
2. The Savior's Prayer
3. The Believer's Fall
4. The Believer's Future

Discuss

- 1) Is pride a good or bad trait to have? Why?
- 2) In what ways does pride limit our understanding of both God and ourselves?
- 3) Pastor Don mentioned that when we often try to do the work of God in the flesh rather than in the Spirit. What does that look like? How, if at all, have you seen it in your life?
- 4) Read 1 John 1:8-10. Once we recognize our “fallenness” or our propensity to sin, even as Christians, how should we respond? Has that been your regular experience as a Christian?
- 5) When we see a fellow Christian who is exhibiting pride (boasting, sleeping, fighting, hiding, etc.) and on the verge of falling, how can we exhort that person to be humble without falling into the same sin patterns ourselves?