

SPRING QUARTER SUNDAY SCHOOL 2016

THEME: FORSAKING ALL I TRUST HIM...THE FAITH STORY

UNIT ONE – “TESTS OF FAITH”

“A TESTIMONY OF SOLID FAITH VERSUS STRUGGLING FAITH”



Sunday School Lesson No. III – March 20, 2016

Presented by Rev. Frank A. Davis, III, Pastor-Teacher

Lesson Text: Mark 14:26-31, 66-72

Required Reading: Matthew 26:31-35, 69-75; Luke 22:31-34, 54-62; John 13:36-38; 18:16-18, 25-27

Motto Text: Mark 14:30, “*And Jesus saith unto him, Verily I say unto thee, That this day, even in this night, before the cock crow twice, thou shalt deny me thrice.*”

Reliable Resources: What the Bible Teaches by R. A. Torrey; New Pilgrim Edition Study Bible; Easton’s Illustrated Dictionary; Word Search 10 Electronic Library; Union Gospel Press Expositor and Illuminator; Wilmington’s Bible Handbook; Standard Lesson Commentary; Precepts for Living (UMI Publishing); Master Outlines from “The Open Bible” Thomas Nelson

INTRODUCTION

Beloved, we now enter the third lesson in the series, “**Forsaking All I Trust Him...The Faith Story.**” We are studying how faith is involved at every level of the believer’s life. As Hebrews 11 says, “*Without faith it is impossible to please Him (God).*”

According to the Master Outlines Number Ten: “Faith says, ‘God is working out His perfect will in my life, and I can wait, endure and suffer.’ Faith does not make anything easy, but it does make all things possible. But as we asked in early lessons, ‘What is faith?’ Faith has two sides. One side has to do with the intellect. It is an intellectual conviction that Jesus Christ is God. The other side has to do with the will. It is a volitional surrender of the will to Jesus Christ as Master.”

Let us now concern ourselves with our lesson of the week that I entitle, “**A Testimony of Solid Faith Versus Struggling Faith.**” This lesson demonstrates Jesus’ solid unwavering faith versus the struggling faith of Peter the apostle. As Jesus prepares and points His way to the Cross, He is fully assured and faithfully prepared to totally obey the will of the Father. On the other hand, Peter and the other disciples had somehow missed the will of God to be accomplished through Christ. Peter especially appeared to be acting out of his fleshly courage and self-impetuous ways.

Jesus gives him and the disciples a word of warning, but somehow Peter missed the lesson because of his struggling faith. He had walked on water and been to the mountain of transfiguration. He even performed miracles and saw water turned into wine, but was his faith solid or struggling? Beloved, I want to share in Peter’s defense. As with my own, sometimes we wane in our wisdom and fail in our lacking faith. Let us examine Peter and Jesus as they face their crisis, “**A Testimony of Solid Faith Versus Struggling Faith.**”

Anticipated Power Points:

- **The Solid Faith of the Saviour. Mark 14:26-31**
- **The Struggling Faith of Simon (His Regression and Remorse). Mark 14:66-72**

LESSON OUTLINE

I. The Solid Faith of the Saviour. Mark 14:26-31

This type of faith was demonstrated by our Saviour's Prediction. vv. 26-30

Jesus Christ never doubted the word of the Father, because He had solid faith in the Father. John 5:30, "*I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me.*" Though the religious leaders were plotting, Jesus was faithful to His Father's will.

v. 27 – Jesus quotes from the prophecy of Zechariah 13:7, "*Awake, O sword, against my shepherd, and against the man that is my fellow, saith the LORD of hosts: smite the shepherd, and the sheep shall be scattered: and I will turn mine hand upon the little ones.*"

vv. 28-30 – Jesus reassures again as He had done several times, though He would be crucified the third day, He would rise again. Thank God for Jesus' solid faith! Even though being deserted by all, betrayed by one and denied by one especially, Jesus maintained His solid faith.

v. 29 – But Peter tried to separate from the other disciples by claiming a greater point of bravery. But beloved, if Jesus says failure would be our lot, that's what will happen.

v. 30 – Jesus demonstrates His solid faith in the Father's Word by declaring to Peter the exact way he would demonstrate faithlessness in the hour of challenge. Beloved, do we sometimes waver in fear, even when we have the best of intentions?

v. 31 – How vain is our human pride? Listen to Peter.

II. The Struggling Faith of Simon. Mark 14:66-72 (His Regression and Remorse)

A. He followed Jesus afar off. v. 66.

Luke 22:54, "*Then took they him, and led him, and brought him into the high priest's house. And Peter followed afar off.*"

B. He fellowshipped at the wrong fire. v. 67a.

Luke 22:55, "*And when they had kindled a fire in the midst of the hall, and were set down together, Peter sat down among them.*"

C. He failed to own Jesus Christ three times. vv. 67b-72a

D. He fell into bitterness and remorse. v. 72b.

Luke 22:61-62, "*And the Lord turned, and looked upon Peter. And Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said unto him, Before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice. And Peter went out, and wept bitterly.*"

CLOSING

But beloved, thank God that Peter's story doesn't end on a negative. Remember Jesus' promise to Peter and all of His disciples in Mark 14:28, "*But after that I am risen, I will go before you into Galilee.*" Also read John 21:15-18. Dr. H. L. Wilmington says, "Jesus singled out Peter for a special leadership assignment (Jn. 21:15-17). In asking Peter if he loved him, Jesus used the word *agape*, sacrificial love, while Peter's response was only *phileo*, or brotherly love. This was perhaps humility on Peter's part, as he bitterly recalled having denied the Lord. The third time Jesus asked Peter if he loved him, he too used *phileo*, graciously meeting Peter at his level of ability to respond. The seriousness of his charge to Peter, however, did not change. In fact, Jesus told Peter that he would mature to self-sacrificing love and would one day give his life for his Lord (21:18). He then repeated the very first command he had ever given Peter: '*Follow me*' (Matt. 4:19)."

Beloved, where does your faith register as **A Testimony of Solid Faith Versus Struggling Faith**? Remember, don't try to impress, but trust Jesus Christ and be at rest!

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Looking Ahead:

March 27, 2016

Mark 16:1-8



Please join us each Wednesday at noon at Bibleway where you can ask questions and make comments as Pastor Davis teaches the weekly Sunday School Lesson. All are welcome!