

Gospel of Matthew 26 “Falling Down”
Matthew 26:30-35
May 26, 2024

Matthew 26:30-35

30 And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. 31 Then Jesus said to them, “You will all fall away because of me this night. For it is written, ‘I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.’ 32 But after I am raised up, I will go before you to Galilee.” 33 Peter answered him, “Though they all fall away because of you, I will never fall away.” 34 Jesus said to him, “Truly, I tell you, this very night, before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times.” 35 Peter said to him, “Even if I must die with you, I will not deny you!” And all the disciples said the same.

Peter pushes back on a gospel that makes suffering central.

Matthew 16:22-23

22 And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, “Far be it from you, Lord! This shall never happen to you.” 23 But he turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me. For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man.

Have you ever surprised yourself by how badly you could mess something up?

Luke 22:31-32

31 “Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat, 32 but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers.”

We don’t often think that we have a spiritual enemy.

Job 1:6-12

6 Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came among them. 7 The Lord said to Satan, “From where have you come?” Satan answered the Lord and said, “From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking up and down on it.” 8 And the Lord said to Satan, “Have you considered my servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, who fears God and turns away from evil?” 9 Then Satan answered the Lord and said, “Does Job fear God for no reason? 10 Have you not put a hedge around him and his house and all that he has, on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. 11 But stretch out your hand and touch all that he has, and he will curse you to your face.” 12 And the Lord said to Satan, “Behold, all that he has is in your hand. Only against him do not stretch out your hand.” So Satan went out from the presence of the Lord.

Satan has power but he also asks permission.

Job 1:9

9 Then Satan answered the Lord and said, “Does Job fear God for no reason?”

James 1:2-4

2 Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, 3 for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. 4 And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

God uses trials to produce in us what we could not achieve on our own.

Romans 5:3-4

3 Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, 4 and endurance produces character, and character produces hope,

When God allows our lives to go through difficulties and failures a new hope born.

“Peter preferred to live out his discipleship on the foundation of his dedication rather than on forgiveness.”

Matthew 26:31-32

31 Then Jesus said to them, “You will all fall away because of me this night. For it is written, ‘I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.’ 32 But after I am raised up, I will go before you to Galilee.”

There is something in place greater than your worst day.

Life Group Discussion Questions

- What did God say to you through His Word during our Sunday gathering?
- Have you ever experienced a failure that surprised you? You thought you were prepared and ready for success and it the opposite happened? How did you think about God’s involvement in the situation?
- How would you describe God’s involvement in Peter’s upcoming test? Does this discourage or encourage you?
- What are we often focused on when experiencing difficult circumstances? What is God focused on?
- What are some reasons that God uses tests and trials in our lives? Is there something you have learned about yourself through suffering? Something about God?
- Why do you think Jesus gives Peter insight into his coming trial? What might this say about Jesus?
- Discuss the idea that Peter preferred to live out his discipleship on the foundation of his dedication rather than on forgiveness. Why might we also do this? How do we know if we are?
- How can your life group help apply this passage to your life this week?