

Mount Pisgah A. M. E. Church

Rev. Phyllis A. Harris, Noon
Rev. Lisa Richardson, Evening
Bible Study, Wednesday, July 22, 2020

Lessons from Failure Matthew 26:30-35, 69-75

Peter was one of the most hasty and boldest men in the entire Bible. When he saw Jesus walking on the water, he attempted to do the same (**Matthew 14:22-33**). When the mob came for Jesus, he pulled out a sword (**Matthew 26:47-56**). When Jesus said the disciples would desert Him after His arrest, Peter swore his undying allegiance to Jesus as the exception to the rest of the disciples .

This is what makes his denial of Christ so spectacular. Before Jesus' arrest, Peter was ready to take on the world. But when the pressure was on, he gave in to fear. (**Matthew 26:30-35**).

All of us have had times in evangelism when we have been silent when we should have been vocal. What can we learn from Peter's failure?

1. True boldness in evangelism doesn't come from within, but from above

When Jesus predicted all of the disciples would stumble because of Him, the night He was arrested, Peter proclaimed, "I will never be made to stumble." But after Christ was arrested, Peter stumbled. Perhaps the most humiliating part of this account is that Peter gave into fear not in front of a government official or high priest but in front of a servant girl.

Yet in (**Acts 2:14-39**), Peter boldly proclaims the Gospel before thousands of people, a crowd that could have stoned him. What made the difference? It was the power of the Holy Spirit (**Matthew 2:1-4**).

Just like Peter, we must depend on the Holy Spirit for boldness when we respond to a person's need as we share the Good News about Jesus Christ with them. Peter's best intentions that included promises of faithfulness, and boldness wasn't enough. It was only when Peter was filled with the Holy Spirit that he publically proclaimed Christ.

❖ **After you fail to speak for Christ, run to Him, not away from Him**

After Jesus' resurrection, Peter probably wondered how Jesus would react. Would Jesus condemn Peter for his cowardice? Peter found the opposite to be true. When Peter encountered Jesus in **John 21:15-19**, Jesus did not scold him but restored him for future ministry. Peter's experience left him broken but not finished. If you have given into fear in evangelism in the past, don't lose heart, don't give up. Run to Jesus, not away from Him. He will greet you with open arms.

❖ **Don't dwell on past failures, but learn from them for future opportunities**

Face it; there have been times when we have remained silent instead of being faithful in working to build God's Kingdom. It's easy to beat ourselves up about those failures. Peter could have done the same. Focusing on our past failures in evangelism takes our focus off of the Lord and keeps us from seeing the new evangelism opportunities that are before us. Satan wants to use our past to shut us up and shut down our evangelism efforts. God wants to use our experiences, even times of failure, to teach us and prepare us for our next opportunity to Share the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

The Great Commission: Matthew 28:18-20

We are not Ashamed of the Gospel of Jesus Christ: Romans 1:16

Source: The Evangelism Study Bible