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transcription errors. \*\*\*

2 We cling to his promise, don't we? That with sincere heart begging for mercy, he said,  
you ask, you'll receive. It's our hope. Turn with me to Matthew 26. Matthew 26.

3

4 Before we read these verses, I wanna tell you what the title of this message is. I've  
titled it, But the Lord Loved Him. That's our title tonight. But the lord loved him.  
Matthew 26 verse 69.

5

6 It says, now Peter sat without in the palace and a damsel came unto him saying, thou  
also was with Jesus of Galilee. But he denied before them all saying, I know not what  
thou sayest. And when he was gone out into the porch, another maid saw him and said unto  
them that were there, this fellow was also with Jesus of Nazareth. And again, he denied  
with an oath, I do not know the man. And after a while, came unto him they that stood by  
and said to Peter, surely thou also art one of them for thy speech betrayeth thee.

7

8 Then began he to curse and to swear, saying, I know not the man. And immediately, the  
cock crew. And Peter remembered the word of Jesus, which said unto him, before the cock  
crow, thou shalt deny me thrice. And he went out and wept bitterly. What have I done?

9

10 Can't you see him saying that to himself? What have I done? All 4 gospels record this  
moment. All 4 gospels. But Luke's account gives us one heartbreaking detail that the  
others don't.

11

12 Turn with me over to Luke 22. Luke 22 verse 54 says, then took they him and led him and  
brought him into the high priest's house, and Peter followed afar off. And when they had  
kindled a fire in the midst of the hall and were set down together, Peter sat down among  
them, But a certain maid beheld him as he sat by the fire and earnestly looked upon him  
and said, this man was also with him. And he denied him saying, woman, I know him not.  
And after a little while, another saw him and said, Thou art also of them.

13

14 And Peter said, Man, I am not. And about the space of 1 hour after, another confidently  
affirmed saying of a truth, this fellow also was with him for he is a Galilean. And  
Peter said, man, I know not what thou sayest. And immediately, while he yet spake, the  
cock crew 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 crew, thou shalt deny me thrice.

15

16 And Peter went out and wept bitterly. The lord turned and looked at him. Can't you  
envision that moment? When their eyes met, Peter remembered and it broke his heart. It  
just absolutely broke his heart.

17

18 Now, Peter was a man who didn't always do things the right way. He was rough around the  
edges as we say it. He was rough around the edges in his attitude. He was rough around  
the edges in his conduct, in his speech. And he's one that we could learn a lot from his  
mistakes to not repeat them.

19

20 But Peter is one who brings a lot of comfort to god's people because we can relate to  
Peter so much. We relate to him so much. Often, we get in in our minds that believers  
are supposed to do everything just right. We do. Don't we?

21

22 Believers are supposed to do everything just right. They're supposed to say everything  
just right. Well, that was not Peter. That was not Peter at all. But even so, it is  
clear in the scripture that the lord loved him.

23

24 What this shows us is and what this re reassures us in is, our hope is not in our  
conduct. Our hope is in Jesus Christ. Now, let me make this clear. There is no excuse  
for our sinful ways. There's no excuse for them.

25

26 But I hope this message will bring bring comfort to us in spite of our sinful ways.  
Through our example of our brother Peter here, I want us to look at him for just a  
second. We're gonna skim through some of the accounts of Peter. Turn with me to Luke  
chapter 5. This is how things started for Peter.

27

28 Luke 5 verse 1. It came to pass that as the people pressed upon our Lord to hear the  
word of God, he stood by the lake of Gennesaret and saw 2 ships standing by the lake,  
but the fishermen were gone out of them and were washing their nets. And he entered into  
one of the ships which was Simon's and prayed him that he would thrust out a little from  
the land. And he sat down and taught the people out of the ship. Now when he had left  
speaking, he said unto Simon, launch out into the deep and let down your nets for a

draft.

29

30 And Simon answering said unto him, master, we have toiled all night and have taken  
nothing. It started with him talking back. This is how Peter's relationship to the Lord  
started. It started with him talking back. It started with unbelief.

31

32 Verse 5. Simon answering said unto him, master, we have toiled all night and have taken  
nothing. Nevertheless, at thy word, I'll let down the net. And when they had this done,  
they enclosed a great multitude of fishes in their net break. And they beckoned under  
their partners which were in the other ship that they should come and help them.

33

34 And they came and filled both the ships so that they began to sink. When Simon Peter saw  
it, he fell down at Jesus' knees saying, depart from me for I am a sinful man, oh, lord.  
I am so sorry for my unbelief. I am so sorry I did not believe your word. Verse 9.

35

36 For he was astonished and all that were with him at the draft of the fishes which they  
had taken. And so, was also James and John, the sons of Zebedee, which were partners  
with Simon. And Jesus said unto Simon, fear not from henceforth thou shalt catch men.  
And when they had brought their ships to land, they forsook all and followed him. His  
first encounter with the lord proved to him and proved to everybody else that he was a  
sinner.

37

38 This is where it all started with him. A doubting, unbelieving sinner, he himself said,  
Lord, you need to depart from me. I'm a sinful man. I'm a sinful man. That's how it all  
started.

39

40 Turn to Matthew 16. Matthew 16 verse 21 says, from that time forth, began Jesus to show  
unto his disciples how that he must go into Jerusalem and suffer many things of the  
elders and chief priests and scribes and be killed and be raised again the 3rd day. Then  
Peter took him and began to rebuke him, saying, be it far from thee, Lord. This shall  
not be unto thee. Can you see him grabbing the lord by the arm and pulling him aside and  
saying, now, you listen to me.

41

42 What you just said, that ain't happening. We're not doing that. Hush, Peter. Hush. Verse  
23, but he turned and said unto Peter, get thee behind me, Satan.

43

44 For thou art an offense unto me. For thou savorest not the things that be of God but  
those that be of men. Hush, fool. You think you sound so wise but you actually sound  
like the devil. This was Peter.

45

46 This was Peter. Look at Matthew 17 right here, verse 1. It says, and after 6 days, Jesus  
taketh Peter, James, and John his brother, and bringeth them up into and high mountain  
apart, and was transfigured before them. And his face did shine as the sun and his  
raiment was white as the light. And behold, there appeared unto them Moses and Elijah  
talking with him, then answered Peter and said unto Jesus, Lord, it is good for us to be  
here.

47

48 If thou wilt, let us make here 3 tabernacles, one for thee, one for Moses, and one for  
Elijah. Peter said, Lord, if it sounds good to you, we will share your glory with Moses  
and Elijah. How would that be? How does that sound to you? Verse 5, while he yet spake,  
behold a bright cloud overshadowed them and behold a voice out of the cloud which said,  
this is my beloved son in whom I'm well pleased.

49

50 Hear ye him. And when the disciples heard it, they fell on their face and were sore  
afraid. And Jesus came and touched them and said, arise and be not afraid. And when they  
had lifted up their eyes, they saw no man save Jesus only. I can only imagine that at  
that moment moment, Peter was saying to himself, I'll never do that again.

51

52 I don't wanna do that again. In Mark chapter 10, Peter was in the mix rebuking parents  
who were trying to bring their children to the Lord. Peter was the one saying, nope,  
uh-uh, not the children. No. Our lord got mad about it and he said, what are you doing?

53

54 Suffer the little children to come unto me. Of such is the kingdom of heaven. What do  
you mean the children can't come? That's who heaven is made up of. Who do you think you  
are, Peter?

55

56 In Luke 22, he was in the bunch. He was trying to decide who was gonna be the greatest  
in the kingdom of heaven. They're all standing around. I guarantee you, Peter spoke  
first. Wonder which one of us is gonna be the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

57  
58 I bet you have to worship me to some degree. I bet you my throne is gonna be higher than  
yours. It's probably me. He said, I was the stone. Turn over to John 13.

59  
60 John 13 verse 1. Now before the feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that his hour was  
come, that he should depart out of this world unto the father, having loved his own  
which were in the world, he loved them unto the end. There it is. He loved them unto the  
end. But once again, listen to Peter verse 2.

61  
62 And supper being ended, the devil having now put into the heart of Judas Iscariot,  
Simon's son, to betray him. Jesus, knowing that the father had given all things into his  
hands and that he was come from God and went to God, He rises from supper and laid aside  
his garments and took a towel and girded himself. After that, he poureth water into a  
basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel wherewith he  
was girded. Then cometh he to Simon Peter and Peter saith unto him, lord, dost thou wash  
my feet? Jesus answered and said unto him, what I do, thou knowest not now, but thou  
shalt know hereafter.

63  
64 Peter sayeth unto him, thou shalt never wash my feet. Jesus answered him, if I wash thee  
not, thou has no part with me. Simon Peter say it unto him, Lord, not my feet only, but  
also my hands and my head. Oh, I'm such a fool. I am such a fool.

65  
66 Lord, please, would you wash not only my feet, but my hands and my head. I'm so sorry. I  
should have never said that. Poor Simon hardly ever got anything right. Even when they  
came to take the lord, Peter drew his sword and cut off that man's ear.

67  
68 The Lord rebuked him for his unbelief. And once again, he said, what are you doing,  
Peter? Put up your sword. How many times do I have to tell you this? I am going to be  
betrayed into the hands of men.

69  
70 I am going to die. I am going to be buried. And on the 3rd day, I'm going to rise again.  
After our lord did die, after he was buried, what did Peter do? He got depressed and  
quit the ministry.

71  
72 He said, I quit. That's it. I'm out. Turn over to John 21. John 21 verse 1.

73  
74 After these things, Jesus showed him self again to the disciples at the Sea of Tiberias  
and on this wise showed he himself. There were together Simon Peter and Thomas called  
Didymus and Nathaniel of Cana in Galilee and the sons of Zebedee and 2 other of his  
disciples. Simon Peter saith unto them, I go a fishing. They say unto him, we also go  
with thee. They went forth and entered into a ship immediately.

75  
76 And that night, they caught nothing. He said, I'm going back to my old ways. They all  
said, we'll go back with you. I'm sure that was coming from his deep regret and his  
depression for denying the Lord. I'm sure he was still depressed over this.

77  
78 Peter was a man of light passions just like the rest of us. And I'm sure he spent a lot  
of time in sorrow and regret and depression, just like the rest of us. I'm sure he  
thought constantly about his life of foolishness and unbelief. And I'm sure in this  
moment, he was thinking constantly about his denial of the lord. 3 times, thrice, just  
like the lord said he would.

79  
80 He had no choice but to say to himself, I did the unthinkable. I did the unthinkable. I  
did what I said I would never do. I denied my lord. I turned my back on my lord.

81  
82 I cursed my lord and left him. But here's the thing about it. Here's the thing about it.  
Even in all of that, the lord never denied Peter. He never turned his back on Peter.

83  
84 He never cursed Peter. He never left Peter. Through it all, he loved Peter. That's all  
he did, was love Peter. Having loved his own, he loved him to the end.

85  
86 And that's how it is for every soul that the Lord loves. We don't excuse our sin. We  
don't condone our sin. We sure don't glory in our sin. But we most definitely glory in  
the fact that our sin will not keep us away from our lord.

87  
88 It will not ruin our standing with him. Do you ever commit sin and then think honestly,  
I've I've fallen back a couple of notches. Well, that's not a possibility with him. When  
we're standing on the rock, we're going nowhere. If anything, the regret of our sin only  
drives us closer to him.

89  
90 It just drives us closer to him. That regret, that hatred of our sin. Every believer hates his sin. But that's what deeply causes us to wanna be like him. No more like us anymore.

91  
92 Only like him. I'm ready to be like him. Verse 3 right here. Simon Peter sayeth unto them, I go fishing. They say unto him, we also go with thee.

93  
94 They went forth and entered into a ship immediately. And that night, they caught nothing. But when the morning was now come, Jesus stood on the shore, but the disciples knew not that it was Jesus. Then Jesus saith unto them, children, have you any meat? They answered him, no.

95  
96 And he said unto them, cast the net on the right side of the ship and you shall find. They cast therefore and now they were not able to draw it for the multitude of fishes. Peter is right back where he started. The Lord brought him right back where he started. It's like the slate had been wiped clean.

97  
98 It's like all that stuff we just read had been wiped clean. It's like a brand new day. It was like mercy started over, brand new today. Verse 7. Therefore, that disciple whom Jesus loved, that's John, he said unto Peter, it is the Lord.

99  
100 Now when Simon Peter heard that it was the lord, he girt his fisher's coat unto him for he was naked and did cast himself in the sea. When he heard that it was the lord, when he heard it was the one he betrayed and the one he rebuked and denied and cursed, he grabbed his coat and he jumped into the sea. Verse 8, and the other disciples came in a little ship for they were not far from land, but as it were 200 cubits, dragging the dragging the net with fishes. As soon then, as they were come to land, they saw a fire of coals there and fish laid there on and bread. Jesus saith unto them, bring of the fish which you've now caught.

101  
102 Simon Peter went up and drew the net to land full of great fishes, a 153. And for all there were so many, yet was not the net broken. Jesus saith unto them, come and die. Come and dine. That's what he said to him.

103  
104 He could have rebuked them. He could have upbraided them for their unbelief but he didn't do that. He said, come and dine. How sinfully wretched life in this world can be. How sinfully wretched our lives in this world can be.

105  
106 And then, we come in here and God's spirit so graciously, so lovingly says to our hearts, come and dine. Isn't that true? Come and dine. Come on. Feed on Christ, the living bread, the living water.

107  
108 Open your mouth wide. I'll fill it. Eat of his flesh. Drink of his soul cleansing blood. If any man sinned, you have an advocate advocate with the father.

109  
110 Come and dine. Verse 12. Jesus say it unto them, come and dine. And none of the disciples durst ask him, who art thou, knowing that it was the Lord? Jesus then cometh and taketh bread and give it them and fish likewise.

111  
112 This is now the 3rd time that Jesus showed himself to his disciples after that he was risen from the dead. So when they had done, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me more than these? He saith unto him, yea, Lord, thou knowest that I love thee. He said unto him, feed my lambs. He saith to him again the second time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me?

113  
114 He sayeth unto him, yea, Lord, thou knowest that I love thee. He sayeth unto him, feed my sheep. He saith unto him the 3rd time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? Peter was grieved because he said unto him the 3rd time, lovest thou me? And he said unto him, Lord, thou knowest all things.

115  
116 Thou knowest that I love thee. Jesus saith unto him, feed my sheep. Peter denied the lord three times. And our lord so graciously and so lovingly allowed him to confess his love for the lord 3 times. I don't know him.

117  
118 I hate him. I curse him. Yes. I do love you. I love you.

119  
120 I love you. So kind of the lord. And then, right after this moment, Peter messed up again. Verse 18. Verily, verily, I say unto thee, the Lord said, when thou was young and

121 thou girdest thyself, you walked where you wanted to.

122 But when thou shalt be old, thou shalt stretch forth thy hands and another shall gird thee and carry thee whether thou wouldest not. This spake he signifying by what death Peter should glorify God. And when he had spoken this, he say it unto him, follow me. Then Peter, turning about, see it the disciple whom Jesus loved, John, that's the apostle John, following, which also leaned on his breast at supper and said, Lord, which is he that betrayeth thee? Peter, seeing him, say it to Jesus, Lord, and what shall this man do?

123

124 Jesus say it unto him, if I will that he tarry till I come, what is that today? Follow thou me. He said, that's none of your business, Peter. That's what he said. That's none of your business.

125

126 Follow me. And poor Peter continued this trend. I'm sure the rest of his days on this earth. In Galatians 2, he was eating dinner with some gentiles. And some Jews walked in and Peter got up, grabbed his food, walked over and sat down at the Jews table because it was unlawful to eat with gentiles.

127

128 And the apostle Paul had to rebuke him to his face and Honestly, that sounds exactly like the kind of stuff that me and you would do. This sounds just like us. We are all wrong in the flesh sinners. And therefore, this is the conclusion we have to come to. There is no confidence for us in our flesh.

129

130 All we can do is worship God in the spirit and rejoice in Christ Jesus and have no confidence in our own flesh. None. And that's where our comfort and our assurance lies. It lies in him alone. It is in him alone.

131

132 If our confidence is in Christ, then we don't need any confidence in the flesh. If our confidence is in his flesh, and if it's in his salvation, and his body, and his blood, and his righteousness, and his mercy and his faith and his faithfulness, his, his, his, we don't need any of our own. We have his. So after all of this was over and Peter's life on this earth was over, this is what he learned. This is the conclusion he came to.

133

134 Go to first Peter 1. First Peter 1 verse 5. He said, we are kept by the power of god. There's no doubt in my mind. We are kept by the power of god.

135

136 Verse 18, he said, for as much as you know, you were not redeemed with corruptible things as silver and gold from your vain conversation received by tradition from your father. You did not straighten up and fly right and get yourself there. Peter said, I know this first handedly. You were redeemed, verse 19, with the precious blood of Christ as of a lamb without blemish and without spot. That's our only hope.

137

138 Verse 24, he said, for all flesh is as grass and all the glory of man is the flower of grass. The grass withereth and the flower thereof falleth away. But the word of the lord endures forever. He said, I'm telling you, the promise of God will stand sure. What he promised, he'll do it.

139

140 And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you. Chapter 5 is where he said, you cast all your care on him. That's all I know to tell you. Turn over to chapter 5. I'm done here.

141

142 Chapter 5 verse 6. He said, humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God that he may exalt you in due time, casting all your care upon him, for he cares for you. Even when we were yet sinners, he cared for us. He lived for us. He died for us.

143

144 He saved us. He called us. In spite of us, he'll keep us. If he bought us with his blood, he will keep us forever. We have lived disgraceful lives on this earth.

145

146 I hate to tell you that. I hate to admit that. I hate to know that. Some of you already know that. Some of you will learn that.

147

148 The lord loved us in Christ and he redeemed us. And because of that, he will keep us forever. He is going to keep us forever. Isn't that so relieving? Thank God.

149

150 Alright.