

“Peter Sat Down Among Them”

The Lone Ranger and Tonto were being chased and had ridden their horses into a canyon with no way out. The Lone Ranger noticed that they were surrounded by Indians. Startled and out of options he said, “Tonto! Tonto! The Indians have surrounded us; we are in terrible trouble! What are we going to do?” Tonto replied, “What you mean ‘WE’ white man?” It’s amazing how quick people change allegiance in the midst of adversity. Such was the case with Peter (**cf. Luke 22:54-61**). In the Lord’s hour of greatest need one of His closest friends and associates denied Him, and did so in such a vile way as to disassociate himself completely from Him. When Peter should have made a stand, he took a seat. What do we learn from this text?

We learn that the further removed Peter got from Jesus the more difficult standing became (**Luke 22:54**). Just prior to Jesus being arrested, He said that they (His disciples) would fall away and be scattered and that Peter would deny Him (**Mat. 26:31-35**). Peter replied, “*Lord, I am ready to go with you both to prison and to death*” (**Luke 22:33**). Peter wasn’t afraid to stand with Jesus when He was right there beside him. It’s when Peter was alone and removed from Jesus that he found standing to be more difficult. And so it is for His people today. The further we remove ourselves from Jesus the harder standing will be. Jesus must always be by our side. We must never allow anything or anyone to come between us and our Lord (**Jam. 4:7-8**).

We learn that Peter chose to sit with sinners rather than stand with the Savior (**Luke 22:55**). As the night grew colder, Peter drew closer and closer to the fire! And the same thing can happen to us if we’re not careful! When we choose to distance ourselves from the Lord and associate with sinners, we, like Peter, will fall (**cf. 1 Cor. 15:33**)!

We learn that Jesus saw what Peter did (**Luke 22:60-61**). The Lord, even from His heavenly throne above, is able to see all, know all, and hear all (**cf. Gen. 6:5; Job**

34:21-22; Heb. 4:13; 1 Pet. 3:12). Thus, it's imperative that we do, say and think nothing that would disappoint Him!

We learn that Peter's remorse was a good indicator that his fall would not be fatal (**Luke 22:62**). Jesus knew Peter's heart. Despite knowing that Peter would deny Him, the Lord also knew that Peter would repent. "*Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat, but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And **when you have turned again**, strengthen your brothers*" (**Luke 22:31-32**). The remorse Peter had for what he did should be the same remorse we have when we succumb to temptation. Paul writes, "*For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation*" (**2 Cor. 7:10**).

Let's learn from Peter's mistake! May we never lose sight of Jesus (**Heb. 12:2**); may we stay as far away from the enemy as we can (**Jam. 4:7-8**); may we never forget that our Lord see's all, hears all and knows all (**Job 34:21**); and may we, when we fall, get back up and stand with Him once more!

-Terry R. Townsend