



# **MATTHEW**

The Savior-King and His Kingdom

## **The King's Broken Servant!**

**Matthew 26:69-75**

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**Sermon given on August 25, 2024**



Sunday Morning Service

**Pastor Rick Lancaster**

# The King's Broken Servant!

*Matthew 26:69-75*

## Opening Comments

- Open your Bibles to **Matthew 26**
- Today, we continue a series through the gospel of Matthew – **The Savior-King and His Kingdom**
- Let's open this time in our service with a word of prayer. - **Pray**

## Teaching

- **The King's Broken Servant!**
- If I were to ask you how strong your faith was, how would you answer me?
- What is the basis for measuring how strong your faith is, or the faith of those around you?
- This morning, we are going to look at the account of Peter denying Christ three times.
- The strength of Peter's faith is tested, and sadly, it is not strong enough to pass this test.
- But the story doesn't end there, Jesus uses Peter's spiritual failure to remake him into a spiritual giant.
- The context for our text today is Jesus is being falsely accused in the High Priest's presence.
- **Matthew 26:69**
- It is fairly bold of Peter to follow those who arrested Jesus.
- In the garden of Gethsemane Peter had cut off the ear of one of the high priest's servants.
- Peter's presence there was evidence of his love for Christ.
- But was that love going to be enough to carry him through the night?
- Peter and the disciples believed that Jesus was the Messiah.
- And even though Jesus had told them He was going to be arrested and crucified and then on the third day rise again, it seems that they did not fully believe or understand what He meant.
- There is a sense that they did not know what to do or what this all meant for the future.

- Faith is believing something we can't see and taking steps into an unknown future.
- Faith is trusting God at His Word even when the reality of life suggests otherwise.
- Faith seeks answers but does not require them to walk in faithful obedience to God.
- Faith led Peter into the courtyard of the High Priest and then his faith is tested by a servant girl.
- **Matthew 26:70**
- Peter does what Jesus told him he would do.
- At the end of this text Peter remembers what Jesus said.
- Peter, in the stress of Christ's arrest and fear about what was going to happen, allowed his emotions and human nature to determine how he responded to the servant girl's question.
- He got caught up in the moment and reacted in the flesh.
- Every moment is a choice to follow Christ or follow our flesh.
- Every time a choice comes, we can give in to our emotions and the desires of our flesh or we can pause and pray and ask God the Holy Spirit to guide us to the right choice.
- Part of our problem as we struggle through the trials of life or face temptations is that we too quickly forget what God said in His Word.
- Or worse, we have not tried to know God as He has revealed Himself in the Bible.
- Every time a choice or thought comes, we ought to ask ourselves, "What did Jesus say about this?"
- Or, "What does the Bible say about this?"
- Or, "What can I do that follows Christ's example or models God's nature?"
- And if I can't answer those questions, I should reach out to someone who might be able to (**1 Corinthians 11:1**).

**Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ.**

- Find someone who is doing a better job than you are in whatever area you need help with and ask them to help you.
- Peter is in a dangerous place. He is alone in enemy territory.
- Peter was not prepared for this spiritual attack.

- Jesus had rebuked him and the other disciples because they were sleeping when they should have been praying with Jesus (**Matthew 26:40-41**).

Then He came to the disciples and found them sleeping, and said to Peter, “What! Could you not watch with Me one hour? <sup>41</sup> Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed *is* willing, but the flesh *is* weak.”

- Prayer prepares us to face the temptations and trials that may come into our life.

- **Matthew 26:71-73**

- Peter was still in the area of temptation.
- He had already failed once. Why did he stay?
- He may have believed that his failure would not be repeated (**1 Corinthians 10:12**).

Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.

- Peter was confident in himself.
- He believed he was stronger than most around him.
- God used a servant girl to break his self-confidence.

- **Matthew 26:74**

- Luke’s gospel adds an important element to this account (**Luke 22:61a**).

And the Lord turned and looked at Peter.

- Apparently, there is a straight line of sight between Jesus and Peter.
- Peter can see what is happening to Jesus.
- See can see those around Him mocking, spitting on Him, and beating Him.
- They both hear the rooster crow and Peter looks toward Jesus and sees Jesus looking directly at him.
- Isaiah says that the beating Messiah took was savage (**Isaiah 52:14**).  
**Just as many were astonished at you, so His visage was marred more than any man, and His form more than the sons of men...**
- As Peter looked up into the swollen and bloody face of Christ, something broke inside of Peter.

- **Matthew 26:75**

- Like a thunderclap, Jesus’ words shocked Peter out of his spiritual stupor and shattered his self-confidence.
- What did Peter see in the eyes of Christ at that moment.

- Did he see an ‘I told you so’ look in Jesus’ face? Not likely.
- Did Peter see a look of disappointment in Jesus’ eyes? Not a chance!
- Jesus knew it was going to happen.
- Did he see anger, or condemnation, or frustration? No way!
- Peter saw what He had always seen from his Lord Christ Jesus – Peter saw love and acceptance.
- There is nothing in the universe that can change how Jesus feels about us.
- His love transcends this life or this world.
- Judas committed the heinous act of betrayal and Jesus loved him even as Judas was betraying Christ.
- Peter had been warned that he would be tempted to deny Christ.
- And even as he was committing this cowardly act, all Peter saw from Jesus was love.
- That was the only thing that could break Peter’s self-confident and prideful heart.
- This event left Peter a broken man. Jesus didn’t leave him broken.
- Turn to (**John 21**).
- After Jesus was raised from the dead the disciples decided to go fishing.
- Jesus showed up and told them to cast their nets on the other side of the boat.
- They did and caught a net full of fish.
- Jesus then invites them to have breakfast.
- After breakfast, Jesus has a conversation with Peter.
- **John 21:15-19**
- Peter was broken by his denial of his loving Savior and was reshaped into man on fire for Christ who preached the first sermon of the newly born church and saw more than three thousand come to faith in Christ.

**A.W. Tozer**

"It is doubtful that God can use anyone greatly until He has hurt him deeply"

- Obviously, being an expert on the topic of exercise, I know that to build muscle, it must be exercised.
- When you challenge a muscle sufficiently it creates microtears in the muscle.

- When those microtears heal the muscle becomes stronger.
- A consistent pattern of breaking down muscles and allowing them to heal and tearing them down again is how you build muscle.
- There is more to it than that but that is the basic pattern for building muscle.
- Building faith is like building muscle.
- To build our faith, we must exercise it.
- And just like the human body which has about 600 muscles, our faith is not a singular thing.
- It is not uncommon for people to exercise one group of muscles at a time.
- God will do that with our spiritual muscles as well.
- How do you know what God is working on?
- You will know because there is a point of pain in your life.
- If something is not right in your life, or you feel uncomfortable about something, or someone has done something that hurt you, or you are experiencing fear, worry, anger, resentment, doubt, or anxiety, that is where God is trying to get you to exercise your faith.
- When we choose to exercise, we decide what we want to work on.
- Because God is sovereign, He decides what spiritual muscles He wants you to work on.
- The apostle Paul tells us we play a part in this process (**1 Timothy 4:7b-8**).

...exercise yourself toward godliness. <sup>8</sup> For bodily exercise profits a little, but godliness is profitable for all things, having promise of the life that now is and of that which is to come.

- The first step is to acknowledge that God is trying to exercise your faith.
- For example, we are in an election year.
- There are many people who are anxious or worried about how it is going to turn out.
- Is anxiety the right response (**Philippians 4:6-7**)?

**Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; <sup>7</sup> and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.**

- If I am anxious or worried, then that is the area of faith God is trying to work on.
- The exercise I am to do is prayer, supplication, with thanksgiving, giving the source of my worry to God.
- The evidence that my faith is growing through that exercise is the peace of God!
- Notice, it doesn't suggest that the reason for your anxiety or worry will go away – you will just be at peace during whatever it is.
- In addition to working on specific areas of spiritual faith, God would also have us work more generally. For that we practice the spiritual disciplines that grow our faith.
- These are things like prayer, Bible reading and study, discipleship and fellowship, service and giving, and many others.
- The more we practice the general spiritual disciplines, the more our faith grows and the easier it is to work out those areas that God shows us we need to work on.
- Most believers will not need to be broken as deeply as Peter was.
- But before you say, thank God for that, ask yourself these three questions.
- **First - Does God still want to great things in this world?**
- **Second - Could God use me to do great things in this world?**
- **Third - Am I willing to let God break me so that He can remake me into someone who can do great things for Him?**
- The right answer to all those questions is yes.
- If it is not, that might be where God wants to work on your faith first.
- Let's pray and ask the Holy Spirit to help us exercise our faith!
- **Pray! Last Song!**