



Passion
week

Mark 14:27-31

And Jesus said to them, “You will all fall away, because it is written, ‘*I will strike down the shepherd, and the sheep shall be scattered.*’

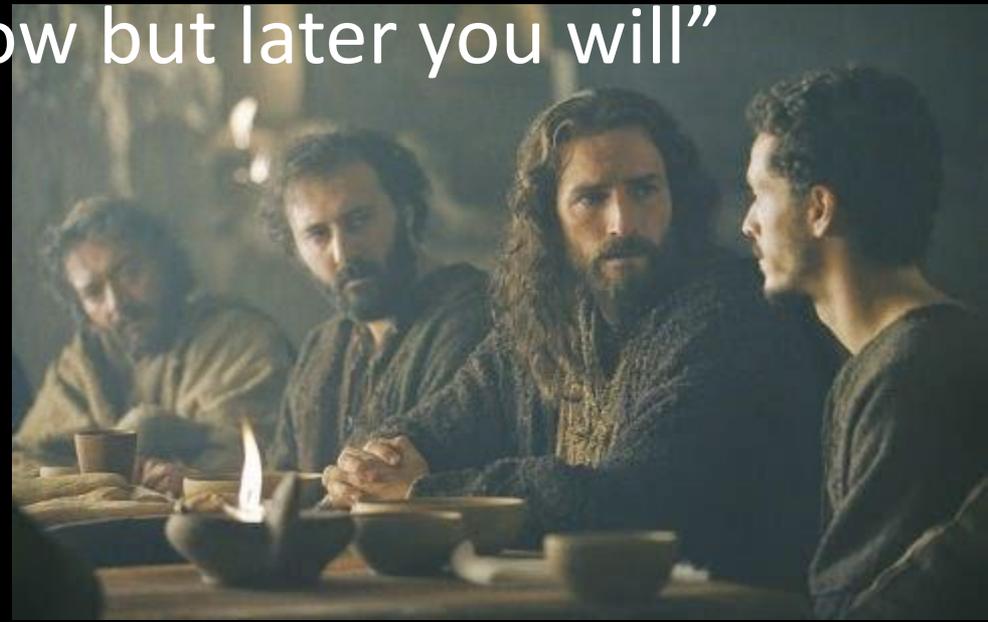
“But after I have been raised, I will go ahead of you to Galilee.”

But Peter said to Him, “*Even* though all may fall away, yet I will not.” And Jesus said to him, “Truly I say to you, that this very night, before a rooster crows twice, you yourself will deny Me three times.”

But *Peter* kept saying insistently, “*Even* if I have to die with You, I will not deny You!” And they all were saying the same thing also.

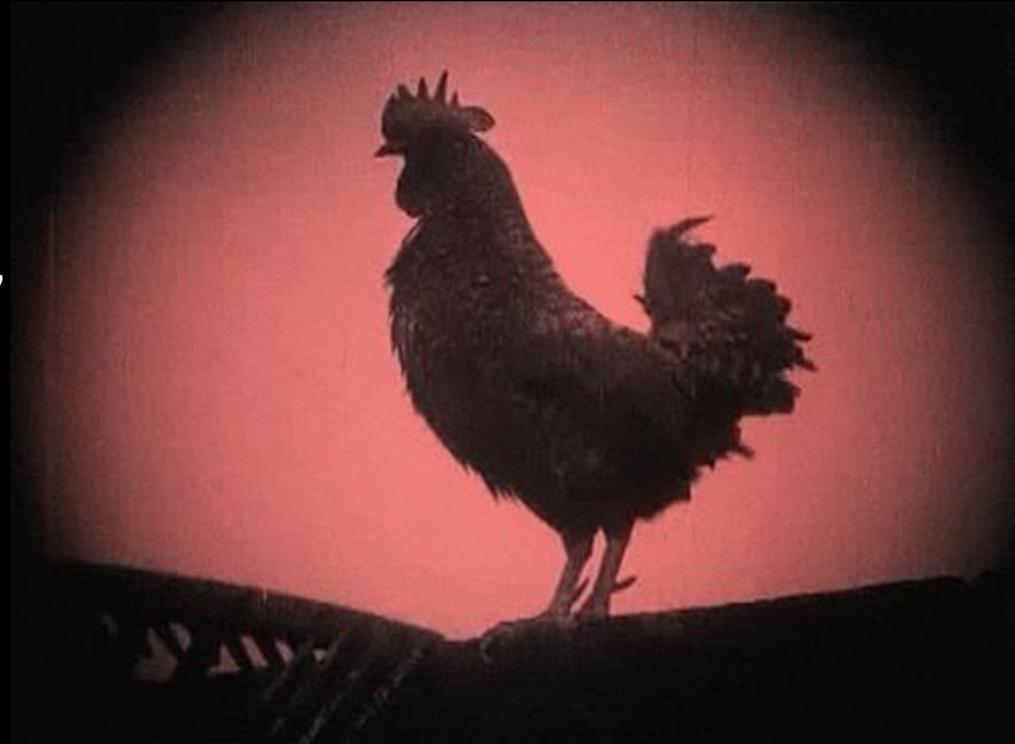
All other Gospels have this story

- Matt 26:31-35 – virtually word for word
- Luke 22:31-34 – found in the context of Jesus saying that Peter will be sifted by Satan
- John 13:36-38 – Jesus also adds “where I am going you cannot follow but later you will”



Then the rooster crowed

- Mark 14:66-72
- Matthew 26:69-75
- John 18:15-18, 25-27
- Luke 22:54-62



And Peter wept bitterly

What is this story about?

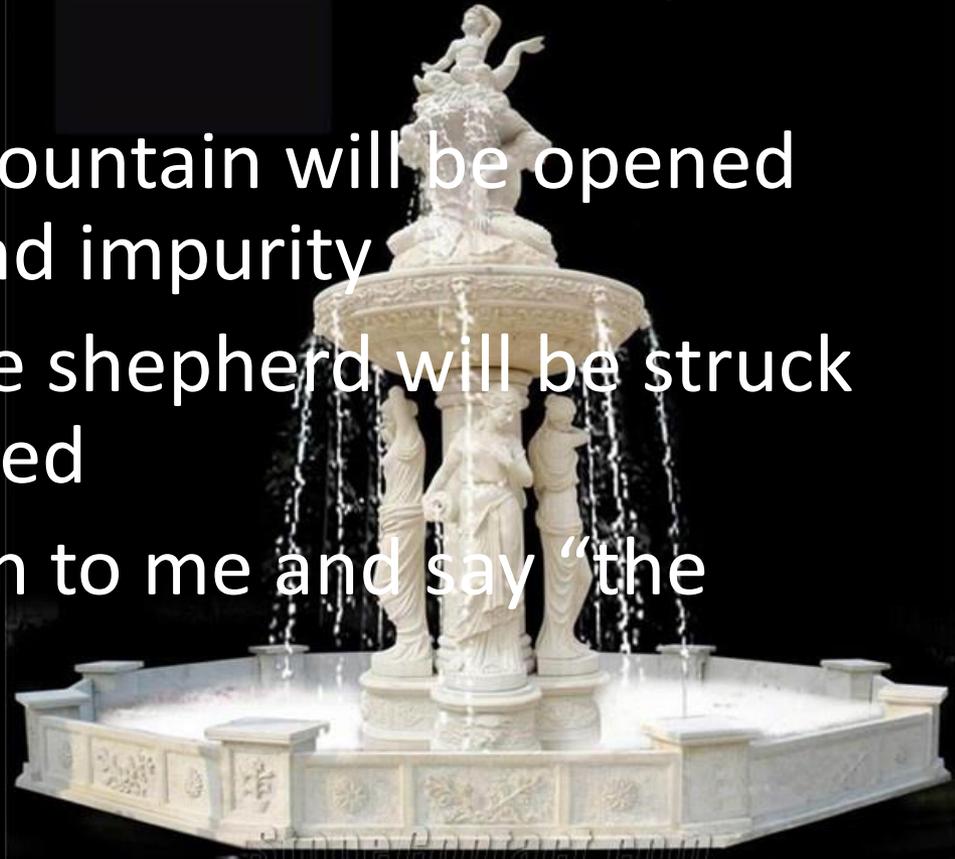
In Mark's account Jesus says three things

1. You will all fall away because it has been written (Zechariah 13:7)
2. After I rise, meet me later in Galilee.
3. "Peter you *will* fall away"

Zechariah 12:10-13:9

A prophecy about the Messiah/Christ

- 12:10 – they will look on me the one they have pierced
- 13:1 – On that day a fountain will be opened to cleanse from sin and impurity
- 13:7 – On that day the shepherd will be struck and the sheep scattered
- 13:9 – They will return to me and say “the Lord is our God”



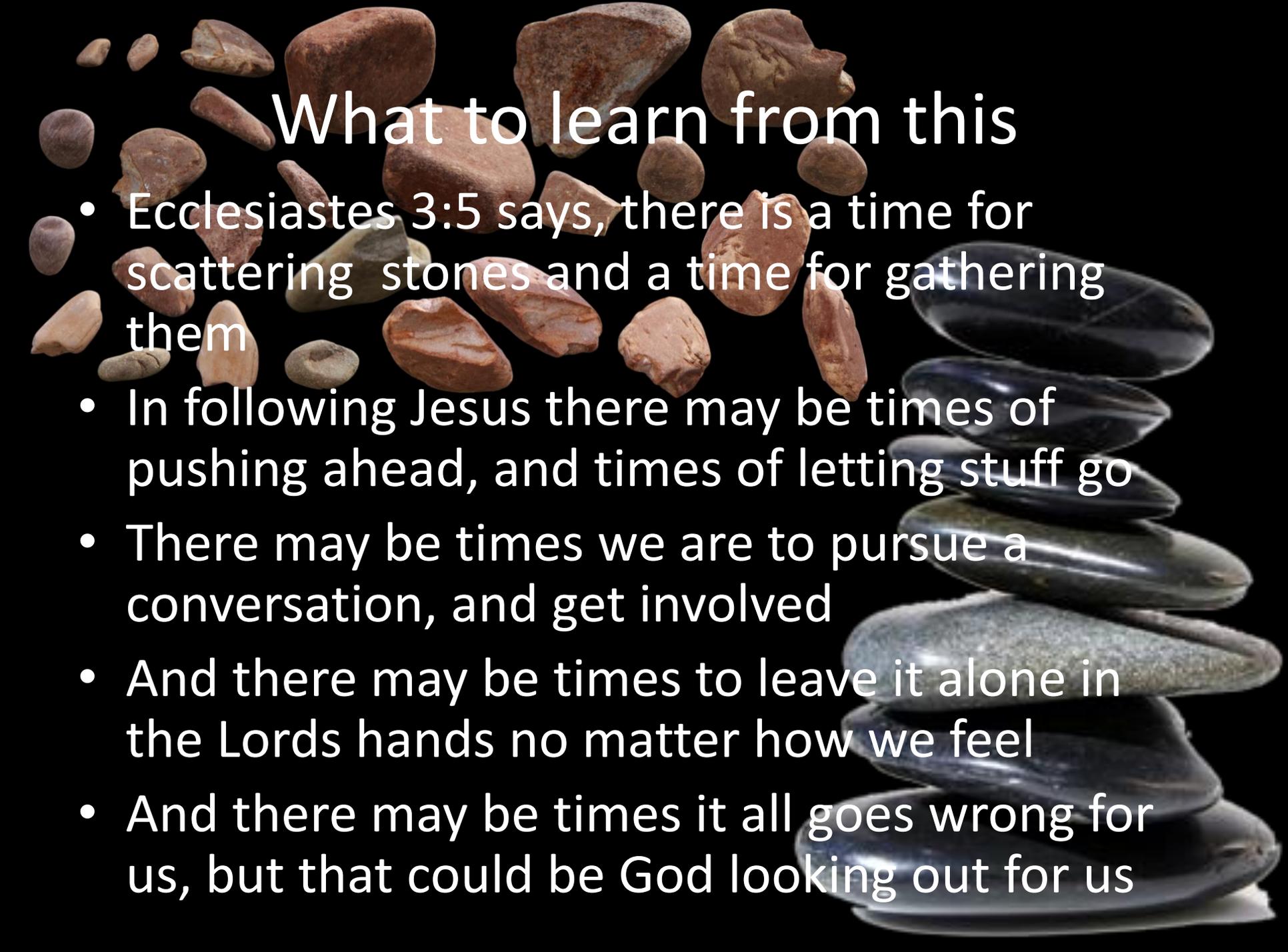
The shepherd dies and the sheep run

- Jesus said this because he did not want them to follow him – he had to do this alone
- Sheep scatter to protect themselves – and the group
- Peter got special treatment because having failed to accept that this is what Jesus wanted, he had to have an extra incentive



Only play the Martyrdom card once

- Imagine if the disciples had followed Jesus into death. 13 (+2) crosses instead of just 1 (+2).
- What would have happened to all that knowledge Jesus had invested into them to build the coming Church?
- Imagine if Peter had got himself killed at this point – where would things have been?
- The scattering and the denial protected Peter, the disciples, and the Church
- Just because it sounded 'negative' doesn't mean it was a bad thing



What to learn from this

- Ecclesiastes 3:5 says, there is a time for scattering stones and a time for gathering them
- In following Jesus there may be times of pushing ahead, and times of letting stuff go
- There may be times we are to pursue a conversation, and get involved
- And there may be times to leave it alone in the Lords hands no matter how we feel
- And there may be times it all goes wrong for us, but that could be God looking out for us

Discerning the Lords voice

- Jesus said leave, Peter said No!
- Why did Peter do this?
- Fear of looking weak, false sense of loyalty, wanting to be protective, needing to 'fix' it, fear of loss, disappointment, rejection.
- Expectations on himself to be strong, or strong for others. Fear of failure. Perhaps his pride, personality, ego. needed to learn to wait – fools rush in
- His *failure* was not the *denial* but not accepting that Jesus purpose was for him to walk away

Know your own “drivers”?

- What gets in our way of “trusting in the Lord”?
- Our fears, our grief, our need to be right, liked, loved, accepted etc which may mean we pursue conversations, or people, or activities which we should just leave alone (or *vice versa*)
- Perhaps situations in our lives / families / workplaces that we do not like. When do we step in? when do we wait? What is the Lords will?
- Stop / wait / breath / ask ourselves “why?”

A pattern for handling disagreements

- People in conflict can learn from Jesus and Peter. Sometimes one needs to go away and think about it themselves, and the other wants to fix it NOW!
- Follow this pattern
- “Jesus” – tell the person I need to do this bit alone
But i will see you later to restore the relationship
- “Peter” – let them go and do your own growing up and see them later in Galilee for restoration

Being careful how we judge “Peter”

- Do we judge his denial? Or his failure to accept Jesus word that it was ok to look like a lily-livered coward?
- How easy is it to judge others on what *we think* they should be doing/or not doing
- May God forgive us and reveal our sin
- Their journey will be different to ours and our response might be to actually just sit and talk with them and find out what they are thinking encouraging them to “trust in the Lord”

What about when it affects us?

- How do we respond when we feel we have been failed by our parents, our teachers, our church, our pastor, our wife/husband/friends etc?
- How do we respond when we know that we have failed others?
- This is one of the most difficult things we face and yet there is hope that God can redeem all things restoring us and transforming our mistakes into something that can be OK - like Jesus did.

Jesus restores Peter (John 21:15-21)

- True to his word, Jesus meets them all in Galilee
- Jesus asks Peter “do you love me”
- In this exchange, Jesus helps Peter understand that his so called “failure” was actually his salvation – to fulfil God’s purpose for him, but Peter had to learn to let his feelings about it go and in doing so, Jesus could redeem the whole experience

Our story



- Often we feel we may have let God down (or God let us down) and so should abandon his call on our life
- That is where I see the sifting that Satan does (Luke 22:31). He wants you to think you failed and are of no further use
- But Jesus says “feed my sheep” my purpose for you still stands, accept my forgiveness and let it go. Leave your other “drivers” behind and follow me

What is the *word* for you today?

- Are you bound up with your own sense of failure
- Is the knowledge of your “sin” weighing you down and preventing you from pursuing Christ's path for you of purpose and peace?
- There is a fountain of cleansing here today (Zechariah 13:1) that you might know you are forgiven and free
- Jesus says to you – Follow me – fulfil my call

I know a fount where sins are washed away;
I know a place where night is turned to day.
Burdens are lifted; blind eyes made to see
There's a wonder-working pow'r
in the blood of Calvary.