

Is It I?

Linville Dunaway, Corinth Christian Church

Mark 14:18-19. "And as they sat and did eat, Jesus said, Verily I say unto you, One of you which eateth with me shall betray me. And they began to be sorrowful, and to say unto him one by one, Is it I? and another said, Is it I?"

These are the same men who will say that they will never deny the Lord. Yet, in this moment, each of them is asking the same question. Every one of them wonders - could he possibly be the one that the Lord is speaking of. None of them, except Judas, wanted to think that he could betray the Lord.

With this spirit and the humbleness that they felt, they were in better shape than when pride took over. We remember Peter's boast that he would stand by the Lord, even if all the rest did not. All of them began to say how firm that they would be in being faithful to the Lord. When the time came that they could prove their words, what happened? Jesus stood there among the mob alone for they had

all forsaken Him.

Why was Peter singled out as the one who denied Him? Simply because he had made the most heated boast of how strong he would be. Remember, he was the one who said, "Though I should die with thee, yet will I not deny thee," **Matthew 26:35.** They all made the same claim and all failed in keeping it. Now, before we feel too superior to these men, let us consider a few things.

When they made the promise - they meant it. Each of them intended to honor his word and stand by the Lord. The problem was that they trusted in themselves to have the strength to do this instead of trusting in the Lord. When we think that we are strong, and/or smart, we are headed for trouble. **1 Corinthians 10:12.** "Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall." Each person has made mistakes and fallen short in the walk with God. As much as we hate to admit it, we have. We, like the apostles, didn't intend to, but we failed just as they did.

Have we learned anything from our failures? Some do, and others don't seem to concern themselves much about it. The evil one would

like for you to think that it is no big deal and to accept sin as part of life. As Christians we are to fight against sin each day of our lives. If a person can get their heart to the point that he doesn't want to sin, he has reached a milestone in his walk with the Lord. If we read the writings of Paul we see that he fought against sin each day. He saw it as a war, the flesh against the spirit.

When we realize that we don't have the strength, knowledge, and goodness, in and of ourselves, to live the Christian life we can look to the Lord for the help that we need. Jesus said, "Without me, ye can do nothing." **John 15:5.** I hope that we can see the reality of what Jesus has said here. The only thing that we seem to be able to do on our own is to fail.

In **II Corinthians 12:10** Paul made a statement that sounds like it contradicts itself, but it doesn't, for it is true. He said, "...for when I am weak, then am I strong." When we admit that we are weak and rely on the Lord and not on anyone else, then we are strong. Strength comes when we look to the Lord for all our needs. It was a wise man who said, "Without the Lord, I can't win. With the Lord, I can't fail."

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