

Following at a Distance

I love you, O Lord, MY STRENGTH. The Lord is MY ROCK and MY FORTRESS and MY DELIVERER, MY GOD, MY ROCK, in whom I take REFUGE, MY SHIELD, and the horn of MY SALVATION, MY STRONGHOLD. I call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be PRAISED, and I am saved from my enemies. The cords of death encompassed me; the torrents of destruction assailed me; the cords of Sheol entangled me; the snares of death confronted me. In my distress I CALLED UPON THE LORD; to my God I CRIED FOR HELP. From his temple he heard my voice, and my cry to him reached his ears.

This God—his way is PERFECT; the word of the Lord PROVES TRUE; he is a SHIELD for ALL THOSE WHO TAKE REFUGE IN HIM.

Psalm 18:1-6, 30 ESV

PRAY

Luke 22:54-62 ESV

Then they seized him and led him away, bringing him into the high priest's house, and Peter was following at a distance. And when they had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and sat down together, Peter sat down among them. Then a servant girl, seeing him as he sat in the light and looking closely at him, said, "This man also was with him." But he denied it, saying, "Woman, I do not know him." And a little later someone else saw him and said, "You also are one of them." But Peter said, "Man, I am not." And after an interval of about an hour still another insisted, saying, "Certainly this man also was with him, for he too is a Galilean." But Peter said, "Man, I do not know what you are talking about." And immediately, while he was still speaking, the rooster crowed. And the Lord turned and looked at Peter. And Peter remembered the saying of the Lord, how he had said to him, "Before the rooster crows today, you will deny me three times." And he went out and wept bitterly.

· When the path is painful do you know Him?

· When the road is rough are you with Him?

Luke 22:49-51 ESV

And when those who were around him saw what would follow, they said, "Lord, shall we strike with the sword?" And one of them struck the servant of the high priest and cut off his right ear. But Jesus said, "No more of this!" And he touched his ear and healed him.

John 18:11 ESV

So Jesus said to Peter, "Put your sword into its sheath; shall I not drink the cup that the Father has given me?"

· Are you willing to drink the cup given to you?

John 18:15-18 ESV

Simon Peter followed Jesus, and so did another disciple. Since that disciple was known to the high priest, he entered with Jesus into the courtyard of the high priest, but Peter stood outside at the door. So the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out and spoke to the servant girl who kept watch at the door, and brought Peter in. The servant girl at the door said to Peter, "You also are not one of this man's disciples, are you?" He said, "I AM NOT." Now the servants and officers had made a charcoal fire, because it was cold, and they were standing and warming themselves. Peter also was with them, standing and warming himself.

John 18:24 ESV

Annas then sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.

John 18:25-27 ESV

Now Simon Peter was standing and warming himself. So they said to him, "You also are not one of his disciples, are you?" He denied it and said, "I am not." One of the servants of the high priest, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, asked, "Did I not see you in the garden with him?" Peter again denied it, and at once a rooster crowed.

- Why did Judas fail?
- Why was Peter following at a distance?
- Why did Peter deny knowing Jesus?
- Why was John staying so close?
- Do you think John had any fear?
- I believe John stayed close because he listened.

John 14:1-4 ESV

"Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you TO MYSELF, that where I am you may be also. And you know the way to where I am going."

- They were looking for a plan to follow.

John 14:6 ESV

Jesus said to him, "I am THE WAY, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

- He is the Way?
 - Where? Wherever He leads you. Home!
 - Might that be a fearful path?
 - Illustration: Jesus asleep in the boat
 - Will there be danger? Conflict? Tests? Opposition?
 - Will there be tough questions? Failures?
 - Jesus has prayed for you!
 - He is leading us home!
- He wants us to know and believe that the safest place is with Him.
 - Remember He is with us, are you with Him?
 - How did Jesus win the fight?
 - In your life where is Jesus leading you?
 - Are you following Him?

Prayer

Benediction

John 14:27 ESV

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you.
Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.