

This Night...

Rom. 3:23-24

- A. Jesus statement to his disciples (Mt. 26:31-35).
1. Jesus tells his disciples that they will forsake him and flee.
 - a. Is he predicting what might possibly come to pass?
 - b. Wondering IF it might take place?
 - c. Suggesting one possible outcome among many?
 - d. Jesus was quoting from Zech. 13:7.
 2. Two things were clear from Jesus' statement
 - a. Jesus knew what the bible said would happen. (How did he know?).
 - b. Jesus trusted that what the scriptures predicted would actually take place. Notice the following references that say God doesn't lie. (Numb. 23:19; Mal. 3:6; Jn. 10:35; Titus 1:2; Heb. 6:18; Heb. 13:8; James 1:17; Jn. 1:14).
 3. Peter's response to Jesus (Mt. 26:33). Not me Lord. We all know how that ended (Mt. 26:34).
 4. All the disciples said they would not abandon the Lord (Mt. 26:35).
 5. Why did they all say that?
 - a. The disciples did not want to believe that Jesus would die and things would turn out how he predicted (Lk. 24:21).
 - b. They believed they were stronger than what Jesus gave them credit for.
- B. What can we learn from this story?
1. The disciples clearly believed with all their hearts that they would stand by Jesus. Were they right? Sincerity will not save you.
 2. The disciples clearly loved Jesus. They all pledged their undying loyalty and support to him, just before they forsook him and fled. Many pledge their love and support for God but that alone will not be enough to save them (Mt. 7:22-23).
 3. Our salvation is not based upon our actions or good intentions, or all of us would be lost. Although they all intended to do the right thing in reality they failed (Rom. 3:23).
 4. Jesus predicted accurately what would happen. His predictions were based upon a knowledge of God's word. If we follow his example and study, meditate, and memorize God's word the more sure and certain our future will be (2 Pet. 1:19).
 5. Our salvation is based upon his actions and our acceptance of that sacrifice that He made (Rom. 3:24).
 6. Jesus promised His love and assurance to all the disciples just before they abandoned him. So it is true today that he freely offers us his love and forgiveness (Jer. 31:3; Heb. 13:5; 2 Pet. 3:9).
 7. The disciples closed their ears and hearts to what Jesus told them would come to pass. If you're teachable then your reachable. Examples of closing your hearts and ears are;
 - a. Children that cover their ears when they aren't listening.
 - b. The lost that commit the unpardonable sin (2 Th. 2:10-12).
 - c. Verses about people in the last days (2 Tim. 4:3-4; Isa. 30:9-10).
- C. Appeal
1. Don't be like Peter and the other disciples but listen to his counsel and study his word.
 2. Peter learned from his mistakes and was faithful in the end of his life.