

Further up, Further in

Resources for Continued Study



LOOKOUT
MOUNTAIN
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

"THE LIES AND THE LOOK"

For individual study or discussion

DATE: February 23, 2025

SPEAKER: Brian/Wil

SERIES: Gospel of Luke

PASSAGE: Luke 22:54-62

RENEW: 31 Days of Prayer

DAY 24: Church Pastors & Staff

PRAYER: God of all comfort and Father of all mercies, pour out your sustaining power on those doing the work of ministry on our LMPC staff. Grow them each in grace so that they take delight in making much of Jesus, and making less of themselves. We bring to your throne those who serve as “spokes in the wheels” in our church — our administrative and operations staff. Remind them of their importance to you in their day-to-day service, never hidden from your eyes, never insignificant or incidental. Bring contentment, fulfillment, and perseverance in small and large tasks, as they help lessen others’ loads. For our facilities staff and all who labor to care for the gift of our beautiful campus, help these gifted servants push back the fall on a daily basis – from the installation of the new to replace what is old and tattered, to the maintenance of what would otherwise repeatedly break down or wear out, to the repair of that which has come to a screeching halt. Also, please bless and protect all of our information technology systems from those who would seek to do harm and steal. For our worship staff, fairest Lord Jesus and beautiful Savior, use them to help us know your beauty, grandeur, intimacy, redemption, and rule. Grant to them ingenuity, thoughtfulness, coherence, and skill to create liturgy that draws us to our glorious King. We bring to you our pastors and ministry staff. Please give them the perseverance to not give up, even when the victories seem small and the losses seem so common. Fill them with hope amid despair, and grant them courage to confront the kingdom of this world with truth and love. Humble and mold them into prayer warriors. And Father, for all of the staff, make your grace ring clearly and shine brightly in their hearts and empower them to serve your church, that your Kingdom may come! In the name of Jesus, our good Shepherd. Amen.

PRAY FOR HOME MISSIONS

Parakaleo, denominational partner ministry

PRAY FOR WORLD MISSIONS

Tsendee, supported national partner

The opening scene of Luke 22:54–62 depicts Peter following Jesus from a distance as the arresting party leads Christ to the high priest’s house. At the official residence of Caiaphas, we discover that Jesus is not the only one on trial. While Jesus stands before the tribunal of the Sanhedrin, Peter is also put to the test as he is confronted in the courtyard. Sadly, it doesn’t take much for Peter’s courage to wither during the encounter. As the cock crows, Peter suddenly realizes the treachery of his lies. But Jesus’ glance encapsulates the extraordinary significance of God’s grace: a look that convicts Peter and points him toward healing and restoration (vv. 31–32).

Peter's lies (vv. 54–60)

One has to question how Peter, who just a few hours earlier boldly asserted he would go to prison and even die for Jesus (v. 33), can now lie in order to protect himself while Jesus stands bound and beaten close by (cf. Mark 14:53–72). As author Jackie Hill Perry asks, “*I wonder how much of his commitment to his proclamations motivated him to follow Jesus [as they led him away], rather than his love for Jesus himself.*”¹

- In our self-protection, how do we lie about Jesus?
- Why do you think Peter behaves so bravely in the garden, yet so cowardly in the courtyard?

Jesus' look (v. 61)

All four Gospels record Peter’s lies, but only the *Gospel of Luke* records the look that Christ gave Peter that fateful night. Luke does not give us any details describing the look on Jesus’ face, but C.H. Spurgeon speculates, “*I think it was a heart-piercing look and a heart-healing look all in one, — a look which revealed to Peter the blackness of his sin and also the tenderness of his Master’s heart towards him.*”²

- In our moments of failure, how do we see Jesus looking at us?
- C.S. Lewis wrote, “*Though our feelings come and go, his love for us does not. It is not wearied by our sins, or our indifference; and, therefore, it is quite relentless in its determination that we shall be cured of those sins, at whatever cost to us, at whatever cost to him.*”³ Consider your own failures. Where can you see God’s relentless grace in your life?

Peter's lament (v. 62)

Encountering the heart-piercing look of Christ, Peter acutely feels the weight of his lies and “*went out and wept bitterly*” (v. 62). In John 21:15–17, we read how Jesus eventually restores Peter through his heart-healing grace. Peter’s fall underscores an important truth for us: those who repent can be restored by God’s grace. In his commentary on the *Gospel of Luke*, J.C. Ryle emphasizes the need for repentance over remorse: “*Remorse can make a man miserable, like Judas Iscariot — but it can do no more. It does not lead him to God. Repentance makes a man's heart soft and his conscience tender — and manifests itself in sincerely turning back to his heavenly Father.*”⁴

- In our unfaithfulness, do we weep and why?
- Read John 21:15–17. Jesus asks Peter three times whether or not he loves him—the same number of times Peter denies him (v. 61). How does this encounter with Jesus restore and strengthen Peter?

¹ Jackie Hill Perry. *Jesus is Always Faithful*. March 22, 2016. <https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/jesus-is-always-faithful>. February 19, 2025.

² C.H. Spurgeon. *Peter's Fall and Restoration in The Metropolitan Tabernacle Pulpit Sermons*. 1902, London. Passmore & Alabaster. 48:138

³ C.S. Lewis. *Mere Christianity*. 1952, NY NY. MacMillian. 118

⁴ J.C. Ryle. *Expository Thoughts on the Gospels: Luke, Volume 2*. 1860, NY NY. Robert Carter & Brothers. 439