

“The End of the Beginning”

You're Not Far, Part 7

March 28th, 2021

There are moments in our life which are **shameful** & **painful** that we wish we could either **un-live** or **redo**

Peter had such a moment and wants us to know there is a **safe** place to take & leave it

Peter wants us to know that while our past **reminds** us, it does not have to **define** us

Mark 1:15 (NIV) ““The time has come,” he said. “The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!”

The good news wasn't Jesus coming to **die** for our sins so you can go to **heaven** someday

The good news was Jesus came to earth so we could know what **God is like**

The most difficult thing for Peter to believe and perhaps for you as well is that **God** the Father is like **Jesus**; Jesus came to **reveal** the Father

John 14:9 (GN) “Jesus answered,... ‘Whoever has seen Me has seen the Father.’”

When Jesus was arrested, all His disciples deserted Him; to the disciples it was **all over**

Jesus wasn't a **king**, and there would be **no** kingdom; in spite of what Jesus taught, the Kingdom of God wasn't **near**, and **God** certainly wasn't near

How did Peter know what went on in the private meetings & conversations of the religious leaders (Pharisees, high priest, teachers of the law, etc)? Some of these religious leaders became Jesus **followers** and **shared** what happened

Mark 14:53-56 (NIV) “⁵³ They took Jesus to the high priest, and all the chief priests, the elders and the teachers of the law came together. ⁵⁴ Peter followed Him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest. There he sat with the guards and warmed himself at the fire. ⁵⁵ The chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin were looking for evidence against Jesus so that they could put Him to death, but they did not find any. ⁵⁶ Many testified falsely against Him, but their statements did not agree.”

Mark 14:60-72 (NIV) “⁶⁰ Then the high priest stood up before them and asked Jesus, ‘Are you not going to answer? What is this testimony that these men are bringing against you?’ ⁶¹ But Jesus remained silent and gave no answer. Again the high priest asked Him, ‘Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?’ ⁶² ‘I am,’ said Jesus. ‘And you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven.’ ⁶³ The high priest tore his clothes. ‘Why do we need any more witnesses?’ he asked. ⁶⁴ ‘You have heard the blasphemy. What do you think?’ They all condemned him as worthy of death. ⁶⁵ Then some began to spit at Him; they blindfolded Him, struck Him with their fists, and said, ‘Prophecy!’ And the guards took Him and beat Him. ⁶⁶ While Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant girls of the high priest came by. ⁶⁷ When she saw Peter warming himself, she looked closely at him. ‘You also were with that Nazarene, Jesus,’ she said. ⁶⁸ But he denied it. ‘I don't know or understand what you're talking about,’ he said, and went out into the entryway. ⁶⁹ When the servant girl saw him there, she said again to those standing around, ‘This fellow is one of them.’ ⁷⁰ Again he denied it. After a little while, those standing near said to Peter, ‘Surely you are one of them, for you are a Galilean.’ ⁷¹ He began to call down curses, and he swore to them, ‘I don't know this man you're talking about.’ ⁷² Immediately the rooster crowed the second time.. Then Peter remembered the word Jesus had spoken to him: ‘Before the rooster crows twice you will disown Me three times.’ And he broke down and wept.”

This would be the **moment** that Peter would give anything to be able to go back and **un-live** & **redo**

The Jewish religious leaders didn't have **authority** to **execute** Jesus, so they took Him to Pilate

Mark 15:3-5 (NIV) “³The chief priests accused Jesus of many things. ⁴ So again Pilate asked Him, ‘Aren't you going to answer? See how many things they are accusing you of.’ ⁵ But Jesus still made no reply, and Pilate was amazed.”

Mark 15:12-13 (NIV) ¹² “[Pilate asked the people] ‘What shall I do, then, with the one you call the king of the Jews?’ Pilate asked them. ¹³ ‘Crucify Him!’ they shouted.”

Mark 15:15-16 (NIV) “¹⁵ Wanting to satisfy the crowd, Pilate released Barabbas to them. He had Jesus flogged, and handed Him over to be crucified. ¹⁶ The soldiers led Jesus away into the palace (that is, the Praetorium) and called together the whole company of soldiers.”

Mark 15:22 & 24 (NIV) “They brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha...and they crucified Him.”

When God was most **glorified**, we would have been most **horrified**

Mark 15:29-30 (NIV) “²⁹ Those who passed by hurled insults at Him, shaking their heads and saying, ‘So! You who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days, ³⁰ come down from the cross and save Yourself!’”

If Jesus had saved **Himself**, He would have been unable to save **others**, i.e. **you**

Mark 15:32 (NIV) “Let this Messiah, this king of Israel, come down now from the cross, that we may see and believe.”

Mark 15:33-34 (NIV) “³³ At noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. ³⁴ And at three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, ‘Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?’ (which means ‘My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?’).”

1 Peter 2:24 (NIV) “²⁴ He [Jesus] Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross,…”

God placed your sin, my sin, & Peter’s sin on **His Son**

The Father **withdrew** from the Son, so the Father could **draw near** to us

Mark 15:37-38 (NIV) “³⁷ With a loud cry, Jesus breathed His last. ³⁸ The curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom.”

Matthew 12:6 (NIV) “[Jesus said] I tell you that something greater than the temple is here.”

Jesus was saying there will come a time when the temple won’t be **necessary**, it will be **obsolete**.
Something **greater** than the temple arrived.

There would be no more **separation** between God and mankind

The new covenant (**agreement**) between God & the human race was officially **ratified**

Everyone is invited to **participate** in God’s new Kingdom

Peter would say, “I got precisely what I **did not deserve**.”

Peter did not learn this from the **Bible**; Peter experienced this **personally**

This same restoration is available to **you**; the Kingdom of God has come, that means you are **never far**

My Next Step Today Is:

- Today I am receiving the gift of a relationship with Him made possible by Jesus’ death
- I want to meet some other people and learn more about a growing relationship with Jesus. I am interested in participating in a 4 week “Circle Up” group after Easter

Join us again next week as we explore being “**The Day No One Believed.**” Invite a friend to join you!