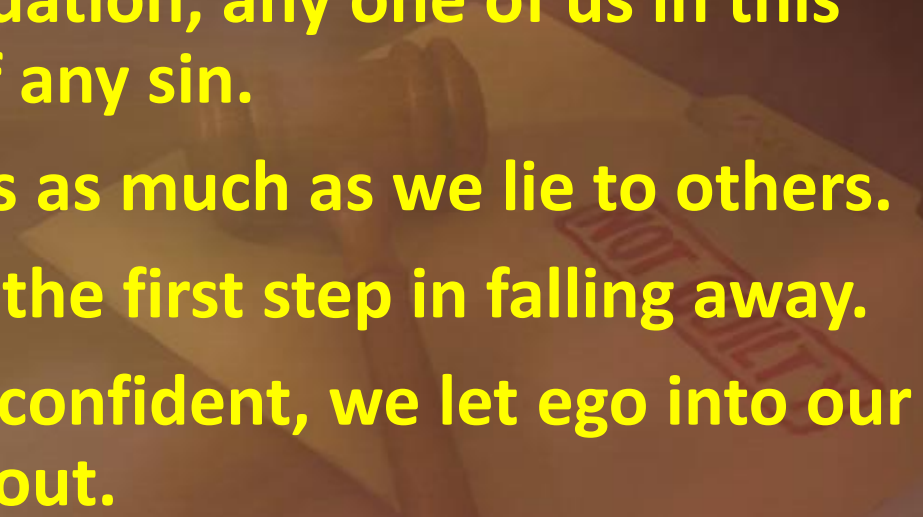


# Restoring Grace

Mark 14:27-31



# Overconfidence

- Given the right situation, any one of us in this room is capable of any sin.
  - We lie to ourselves as much as we lie to others.
  - Overconfidence is the first step in falling away.
  - When we get overconfident, we let ego into our life and edge God out.
- 
- A wooden gavel is positioned diagonally across a stack of papers. The top paper has a red stamp that reads 'NOT ADMITTED'. The background is a dark, textured surface.

# Compromise

- It is important for believers to develop healthy habits.
- When we get tired, we set ourselves up for major temptation.
- If we do not know how to recharge ourself emotionally, spiritually and physically, fatigue will set in.
- Fatigue is a warning light that something is out of order.
- The devil loves to hit us when we are most vulnerable.
- When we let our guard down through overconfidence and compromise, we are starting on the slippery slope to falling away.

# Cowardice

- One of the ways that we know we are slipping away from Christ is that we start to become embarrassed by our faith.
- When we start worrying about what other people think, we are headed for trouble.
- There are no secret agents in God's army, no closet Christians.
- We cannot follow Jesus from a distance.

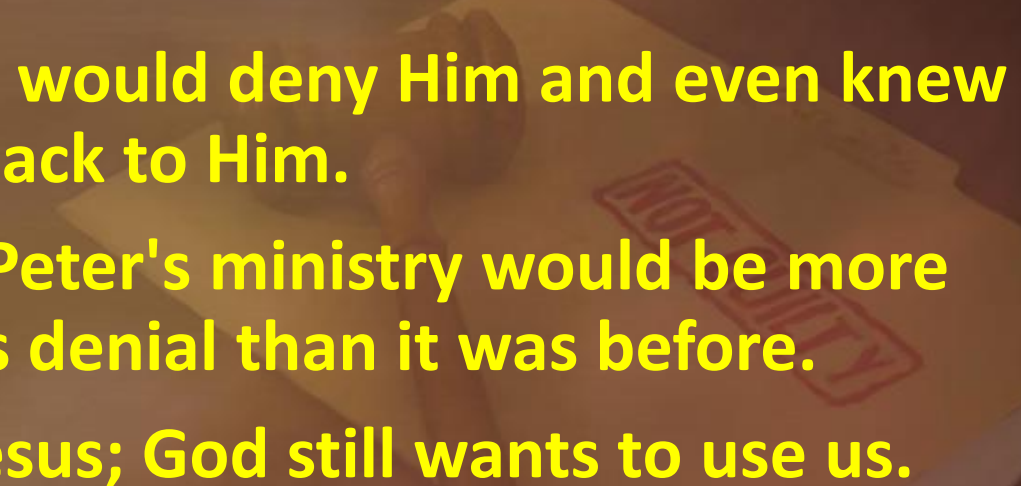
# Convenience

- If we try to enjoy the world's campfire, we are eventually going to get burned.
- When a person is active in a church and they start falling away, the first thing they stop is giving.
- Jesus said our giving indicates our heart.
- The second thing that stops is prayer, and finally they stop attending.
- We do not lose our salvation just because we sinned.
- If we are in Christ, then we are already seated with Him in the heavenly realms.
- God is a God of second chances.

# God Does Not Reject Us

- God's love is perfect.
- God's salvation is not based on performance.
- Salvation is based upon what God does, not what we do.
- God does not reject us when we sin because Jesus has already taken our punishment.
- We cannot be punished for the same sin, twice.
- Jesus knows what it is to be human, so He is sympathetic and understanding since He knows our frailties.
- Fellowship is our current status while relationship is our permanent position.
- When we became a believer in Christ, we were born again into God's family and we cannot be unborn.

# Conclusion

- What should we do when we sin... Return!
  - Jesus knew Peter would deny Him and even knew he would come back to Him.
  - Jesus knew that Peter's ministry would be more effective after his denial than it was before.
  - Come home to Jesus; God still wants to use us.
- 
- A stack of papers is visible in the background, with a red stamp that reads "NOT FINISHED" and a pen resting on top of them.