



TALKINGPOINTS WALKINGPOINTS



A publication of **DISCIPLE**, the adult discipleship ministry of Triangle Community Church.

Talk together about the glory of God's kingdom. —Psalm 145:11
Love the Lord your God and **walk** in all his ways. —Joshua 22:5

Questions for Reflection and Discussion

- What from Sunday's message interested you? ...made sense to you? ...confused you?
...intrigued you? ...upset you? ...encouraged you? ...and **why**?
- Peter relied on his personal strengths, failed to access God through prayer, and had an epic fail. Describe a time when, to one degree or another, you experienced the same thing.

Have you recovered from that failure? If so, what helped you? If not, how can we help?

- What is a situation in which you typically feel threatened or out-of-control?
In that situation, what do you **desperately want/fear losing**? (Be specific, don't just say "control"!)

When Peter got into a threatening situation, he reacted with violence (Luke 22:50; John 18:10).
What is your **typical** response when something "really pushes your button"?

Pastor Doug pointed out Jesus' supernatural serenity as he faced the greatest trial in human history.
Read Luke 22:42. Jesus expressed **two** desires. Rephrase each in your own words.
What **two things** did Jesus **want**? What did Jesus **fear losing most**?

To which request did God say "no"? To which desire did God help Jesus stay true?

What did Jesus do when it he learned that his two desires were incompatible with each other?

What do you typically do in those situations?

Overwhelmed? Need help trusting God?
For personalized help, write to:
BiblicalHopeAndHelp@gmail.com

Application-Challenge

- As you represent Jesus, prepare for Satanic opposition by cultivating the discipline of consistent, reliant prayer.
- Don't allow your failures to derail you; serve others who have experienced similar failures. Point them to Jesus and Peter!
- Commit to the exclusive use of spiritual weapons as you serve others. Let these passages guide you: Ephesians 6:10-20; 2 Corinthians 10:3-6.



Sermon Summary

Key Text: Luke 22:31-53

Jesus' "passion" (ie, his "suffering"—beginning in the garden of Gethsemane and concluding with his crucifixion) was a time of great temptation, both for Jesus and for his disciples. Jesus passed his test with flying colors; his disciples—not so much. Truth is all Christ's followers fail—and that's why the cross is necessary.

Twenty hours before the cross Jesus celebrated Passover with his disciples, speaking of his upcoming sacrificial death. Believe it or not, this quickly led a discussion among the disciples as to which of them was the greatest! Peter, which means "Rock", too often was over-confident (Luke 22:31-34). Peter did not understand the wickedness in every human heart (Jeremiah 17:9; cf. Abraham in Genesis 12:10—13:4; Moses in Numbers 12:3 and 20:8-13). Satan wants to derail you in your area of strength. When that happens, the question is: "How will I respond after I fail?"

Peter shows us that failure need not be final—it can be formative (Luke 22:31-32). Jesus did the most important, most powerful thing for Peter: he prayed for him. Make sure you pray for yourself, and ask others to pray for you, too. Prayer is not a substitute for work, or perseverance, or planning, or good old common sense. But it is a powerful and indispensable support for all of these things (Hebrews 7:25; 1 Corinthians 10:13).

After a major failure, sometimes we feel unredeemable, but oftentimes that makes us the person best qualified to help others who have failed. No matter what you have done, God can use you—if you let him. Each of us will face our "Gethsemane", and it will require prayer (Luke 22:39-42). We must respond as Jesus did: "Father, not my will but thy will be done." If we do, God will strengthen us (v. 43).

But although Jesus persisted in prayer, the disciples did not (v. 46). I wonder: did the disciples' prayerlessness lead to their cowardice and defection? In contrast, notice how absolutely serene Jesus remained (v. 47-53). Peter—bold, impetuous, rash, loyal—lashes out with a sword. That is not God's way. Peter fought the wrong enemy (Ephesians 6:12) with the wrong weapon (2 Corinthians 10:3-6). Peter had the wrong attitude and trusted in the wrong energy. Notice what Jesus did. In his last recorded miracle, Jesus healed his enemy, thus showing grace. In fact, by going to the cross Jesus showed grace to all of us, didn't he?

Talk to God about this Week's Message

"Heavenly Father, please help me today to be a 'doer' of the Word, and not just a 'hearer'. Amen."

Take One Step: What is one small, concrete step of obedience you will put into practice this week?



Create Some "God Space"...

...where cynics, skeptics, and the spiritually curious can safely raise their questions, reservations, and doubts because we have listened well and demonstrated love in practical, authentic ways.

If a neighbor or friend at work asked you, *"What kind of stuff do they talk about at your church?"*, how would you summarize the most important elements of this week's sermon and the key lessons you intend to apply to your life? Can you explain it in **plain language** anyone could understand?

Digging Deeper in Your Daily Quiet Time

**"Five Question Bible Study" (see page below) is a simple way to study any passage.
We can use it to explore Jesus prayerful self-sacrifice...**

Monday— Matthew 16:13-20

Tuesday— Matthew 16:21-26

Wednesday— Luke 9:28-36a

Thursday— John 10:1-18

Friday— Mark 10:32-45

Saturday— ***In preparation for worshipping your risen Lord tomorrow with your church family,*** study Isaiah 53.

Need blank copies for doing more

"Five Question Bible Study"?

e-mail: Dan.Clement.TCC@gmail.com

Bible Text: _____

Date: _____



What idea particularly strikes me from this text? [Note in which verse(s) is it found.]



What question does this text raise in my mind—and how would **this text** answer it?



What about Jesus Christ—his character and/or his redemption—relates to this text?



What action must I take as a result of this text? Be concrete and specific.



With whom will I share what I learned from this text?