

True Discipleship

Our Mission: To take as many people to Heaven as we can before we die. Period.

1. Jesus knows we will fail him.

On the way, Jesus told them, "Tonight all of you will desert me. For the Scriptures say, 'God will strike the Shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.' ...Peter declared, "Even if everyone else deserts you, I will never desert you." Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, Peter—this very night, before the rooster crows, you will deny three times that you even know me." "No!" Peter insisted. "Even if I have to die with you, I will never deny you!" And all the other disciples vowed the same. **Matthew 26:31-35 NLT**

At that point, all the disciples deserted him and fled. **Matthew 26:56b NLT**

2. Question: Are you following Jesus at a distance? Close enough to still see him but far enough for it not to cost you?

Then the people who had arrested Jesus led him to...the high priest...Meanwhile, Peter followed him at a distance and came to the high priest's courtyard. He went in and sat with the guards and waited to see how it would all end. **Matthew 26:57-58 NLT**

3. Examine your established patterns of sin.

Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. A servant girl came over and said to him, "You were one of those with Jesus..." ...Peter denied it in front of everyone. "I don't know what you're talking about," he said. Later, out by the gate, another servant girl noticed him and said to those standing around, "This man was with Jesus of Nazareth." Again Peter denied it, this time with an oath. "I don't even know the man," he said. A little later ...bystanders came over to Peter and said, "You must be one of them; we can tell by your Galilean accent." Peter swore, "A curse on me if I'm lying—I don't know the man!" And immediately the rooster crowed. Suddenly, Jesus' words flashed through Peter's mind: "Before the rooster crows, you will deny three times that you even know me." And he went away, weeping bitterly. **Matthew 26:69-75 NLT**

...Peter went out and cried hard. **(CEV)**

4. Jesus is a God of second chances.

Jesus asked Simon Peter, "...do you love me more than these?" "Yes, Lord," Peter replied, "you know I love you." "Then feed my lambs," Jesus told him. Jesus repeated the question: "Simon son of John, do you love me?" "Yes, Lord," Peter said, "you know I love you.""Then take care of

my sheep," Jesus said. A third time he asked him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter was hurt that Jesus asked the question a third time. He said, "Lord, you know everything. You know that I love you." Jesus said, "Then feed my sheep. "I tell you the truth...when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and others will dress you and take you where you don't want to go." **John 21:15-18 NLT**

5. Let this be your wake-up call.

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Romans 12:2 ESV