

# Building Bridges

Lu. 22:54-62

*“Rebuilding the Broken Bridges”*

Lu. 22:54 Then took they him, and led *him*, and brought him into the high priest's house. And **Peter followed afar off.**

55 And when they had kindled a fire in the midst of the hall, and were set down together, Peter sat down among them.

56 But a certain maid beheld him as he sat by the fire, and earnestly looked upon him, and said, This man was also with him.

57 And **he denied him, saying, Woman, I know him not.**

58 And after a little while another saw him, and said, Thou art also of them. And **Peter said, Man, I am not.**

59 And about the space of one hour after another confidently affirmed, saying, Of a truth this *fellow* also was with him: for he is a Galilaean.

60 And **Peter said, Man, I know not what thou sayest.** And immediately, while he yet spake, the cock crew.

61 And **the Lord turned, and looked upon Peter.** And **Peter remembered the word of the Lord**, how he had said unto him, **Before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice.**

62 And **Peter went out, and wept bitterly.**

Our theme this year is building bridges.

The last five weeks ago, we have considered...

*“Building a Bridge When You Are Not Sure Where You Are Going”*

*“Mothers – Building Bridges for a Lifetime”*

*“Crisscrossing the Bridge Within Us”*

*“Building the Bridge to Keep Building Bridges”*

Memorial Day – *“Crossing the Bridges Built by Others”*

# *“Rebuilding the Broken Bridges”*

## I. THE FRUITLESSNESS RESULTS OF INDIVIDUAL FAILURES

### A. The Causes

#### 1. Distancing from Christ and Christians

- Peter followed afar off.
- Peter sat down, together with the crowd that was antagonistic toward Christ.
- Peter spent time with the wrong crowd – v. 58 “And after a little while... 59 And about the space of one hour...”

## 2. Denying Christ and Christian Principles

- Peter had opportunity to identify with/testify for Christ and neglected it.
- The Lord knew that Peter would deny Him and warned him.

### B. The Consequences

Lu. 22:61 And **the Lord turned, and looked upon Peter**. And **Peter remembered the word of the Lord**, how he had said unto him, **Before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice**.  
62 And **Peter went out, and wept bitterly**.

- Peter denied the Lord.
- Peter's heart and soul was convicted when he remembered the Word of the Lord.
- Peter left the carnal crowd when conviction overwhelmed his heart.
- Peter wept bitterly at his spiritual failure
  1. There is a lack of FAITHFULNESS
  2. There is a loss of FELLOWSHIP
  3. There is a lean FRUITFULNESS

Jn. 21:3 **Simon Peter saith unto them, I go a fishing.** They say unto him, We also go with thee. They went forth, and entered into a ship immediately; and **that night they caught nothing.**

## II. THE FAITHFULNESS REVIVING INTIMATE FELLOWSHIP

Jn. 15:1 I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman.

...

4 **Abide in me, and I in you.** As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, **except it abide in the vine**; no more can ye, **except ye abide in me.**

A. Be Prepared to be Humbled – Jn. 21:15-18

- After the cock crew, “...Peter remembered the word of the Lord...”
- In the midst of His personal suffering, the Lord took time to turn “...and looked upon Peter...”
- Convicted of what he had done, and who he was, “...Peter went out, and wept bitterly.”
- The repentance was due to Peter seeing himself as the Lord saw him – a cowardly denier of the Savior when he should have been a bold follower.

Jn. 21:3 **Simon Peter saith unto them, I go a fishing.** They say unto him, We also go with thee. They went forth, and entered into a ship immediately; and that night they caught nothing.

15 So when they had dined, **Jesus saith to Simon Peter**, Simon, *son* of Jonas, **lovest thou me more than these? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord;** thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my lambs.

16 **He saith to him again the second time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord;** thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my sheep.

17 **He saith unto him the third time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me?** Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third time, Lovest thou me? **And he said unto him, Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love thee.** Jesus saith unto him, Feed my sheep.

18 Verily, verily, I say unto thee, When thou wast young, thou girdedst thyself, and walkedst whither thou wouldst: but when thou shalt be old, thou shalt stretch forth thy hands, and another shall gird thee, and carry *thee* whither thou wouldst not.

## B. Be Prepared to be Holy – Jn. 21:19

21:19 This spake he, signifying by what death he should glorify God. **And when he had spoken this, he saith unto him, Follow me.**

1 Pet. 1:15 But **as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation;**

16 Because it is written, **Be ye holy; for I am holy.**

## III. THE FELLOWSHIP REPRODUCING INCREASING FRUITFULNESS

Jn. 15:5 I am the vine, ye *are* the branches: **He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. ...**

7 **If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you,** ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.

8 **Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.**

## A. Seek Fellowship with Christ, Jn. 15:5-8

Jn. 21:5 Then Jesus saith unto them, Children, have ye any meat? They answered him, No.

6 And he said unto them, **Cast the net on the right side of the ship, and ye shall find. They cast therefore, and now they were not able to draw it for the multitude of fishes.**

7 Therefore that disciple whom Jesus loved saith unto Peter, It is the Lord. **Now when Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he girt *his* fisher's coat *unto him*,** (for he was naked,) and did cast himself into the sea.

## B. See Fruitfulness for Christ, Acts 2:14, 41

Acts 2:14 But **Peter, standing up with the eleven, lifted up his voice**, and said unto them, Ye men of Judaea, and all ye that dwell at Jerusalem, be this known unto you, and hearken to my words: ...

41 Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added *unto them* **about three thousand souls**.

## In Summary:

- Drift away from Scriptural disciplines leads to a...
- Slide toward the non-Scriptural influences which in turn causes one to...
- Join the worldly crowd that emphasizes the carnal shallowness in life.
- The conviction power of the Word of God will smite a wayward soul.
- The realization that leads to repentance is a sorrowful blessing.
- When *broken bridge* of FAITHFULNESS is rebuilt through FELLOWSHIP with Christ, then the believer can begin building the *bridge* of FRUITFULNESS for the glory of God.

## Conclusion

2 Pet. 1:5 And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge;

6 And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness;

7 And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity.

8 For **if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

9 But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins.