

Lk22:54 Having arrested Him, they led Him and brought Him into the high priest's house. But Peter followed at a distance.

22:55 Now when they had kindled a fire in the midst of the courtyard and sat down together, Peter sat among them.

22:56 And a certain servant girl, seeing him as he sat by the fire, looked intently at him and said, "This man was also with Him."

22:57 But he denied Him, saying, "Woman, I do not know Him."

22:58 And after a little while another saw him and said, "You also are of them." But Peter said, "Man, I am not!"

22:59 Then after about an hour had passed, another confidently affirmed, saying, "Surely this fellow also was with Him, for he is a Galilean."

22:60 But Peter said, "Man, I do not know what you are saying!" Immediately, while he was still speaking, the rooster crowed.

22:61 And the Lord turned and looked at Peter. And Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how He had said to him, "Before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times."

22:62 So Peter went out and wept bitterly.

22:63 Now the men who held Jesus mocked Him and beat Him.

22:64 And having blindfolded Him, they struck Him on the face and asked Him, saying, "Prophecy! Who is the one who struck You?"

22:65 And many other things they blasphemously spoke against Him.

From Today's Sermon.

There is a word that means "looking back. It means to look back and be concerned about what is going on behind. Sometimes people think only of themselves and lose the time to reflect on those around them.

Peter said with such fervor, "Lord, I am ready to go with you even to prison and even to death," but in today's scripture, before his tongue was dry, he gave up on Jesus completely in the night. He was brave. He alone even went to the high priest's garden with Jesus as He was being taken captive. He was as brave and honorable as he said he would be. But something happened to discourage him like a wave. A maid stared at him and said, "This man was with Jesus. She, too, was with Jesus.

He who is with Jesus. This was his joy. This was his way of life. He had left everything to follow the Lord, and his life was happier than anything else. But now he denies that he is the one who was with Jesus.

He was selflessly struggling to save his life from difficulties. He could not afford to be distracted. It went on for two or three times. We, too, may be so desperate that we forget the

Lord and deny Him. But here is the Lord's reminder. The Lord looks back to us in the midst of every difficulty and continues to look at us and love us.

Good morning everyone.

We are finally preparing for the Passion Week next week.

It has been cold for a while, as if we were back in the middle of winter, but now it is finally time to feel the arrival of warm spring.

Today we hope to be touched by the Lord's love from His Word, to have His warmth poured into our hearts, to be touched by His life, and to have His strength poured into our hearts.

In Luke 22:33 we read Peter's determined words.

Simon said, "Lord, I am ready to go with you even to prison and even to death.

Prior to this, Jesus said to him.

22:31 Simon, Simon, behold, Satan is permitted to wish to sift you as wheat.

22:32 But I prayed for you, that your faith might not fail. So when you have recovered, give strength to your brothers."

There was the Gethsemane prayer. Jesus prayed a desperate prayer, but the disciples fell asleep from grief and exhaustion.

22:45 When He finished praying, He got up and went to His disciples.

22:46 He said, "Why are you sleeping? 22:46 He said to them, "Why are you sleeping?

Matthew 26:38 Then He said to them, "I am dying of sorrow. Wait here, and keep awake with me."

26:39 And he went a little further, and fell on his face and prayed, saying, "My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me. But not as I will, but as Thou wilt.

26:40 Then He came to His disciples and saw that they were asleep, and He said to Peter, "Were you so unable to stay awake with Me even for a moment?

26:41 Keep awake and pray, lest you fall into temptation. For the mind is hot, but the body is weak."

The Lord's final hour is finally approaching. Judas Iscariot approached and kissed Jesus. The disciples fought back to protect the Lord, but they could not stand up to him.

Jesus was taken away by night into the courtyard of the high priest's house.

22:54 Then the people seized Jesus, pulled him along, and took him to the high priest's mansion. Peter followed from a distance.

22:55 The people lit a fire in the middle of the courtyard and sat together, and Peter sat among them.

As expected, he was the one who had said all that. Peter was the only one who went forward with Jesus to the garden of the high priest's house, which was enemy territory. How brave he was! Up to this point, he was doing exactly what he said: "Lord, I am ready to go with you even to prison and even to death.

But from this point on, he was met with a fierce challenge.

22:56 Then a maid saw him sitting by the fire, looked at him, and said, "This man was also with Jesus.

In the darkness, in the cold of the night, there was one woman who watched anxiously over Jesus, staring straight at his face lit by the fire, staring and not leaving. It is an unpleasant presence. Couldn't Peter have noticed her presence in the darkness? He could only stare at Jesus.

One of the maids looked at him closely and, convinced, said out loud to those around her, "She was with Jesus, too.

Peter must have been shocked.

This man was with Jesus."

We are called Christians because of how important the person of Christ Jesus is to us.

We are people with Christ, saved by Him, with Him as Lord, growing in His likeness.

We read in Acts 19 of an incident in which a person who claimed to believe in Christ but was not with Christ, who was selfishly living without any relationship to Him, was dealt a painful blow by an evil spirit.

19:11 God did one extraordinary and powerful work after another at the hands of Paul.

19:12 For example, when people took the handkerchief or apron he was wearing and put it on a sick person, the sickness was removed and the evil spirit went out.

19:13 Then the itinerant Jewish witchdoctors, invoking the name of the Lord Jesus, addressed those who were possessed with evil spirits, saying, "I command you by Jesus, whom Paul preached, go out. Get out of here.

19:14 And the seven sons of Sukhwa, the chief priest of the Jews, were also doing such things.

19:15 And the evil spirit said to them, "If it is Jesus, I know it; if it is Paul, he knows it. Paul knows it, too. But who are you?"

19:16 And the man who was possessed by the evil spirit leaped upon them, and pressed them all down and beat them, so that they fled out of the house, wounded and naked.

19:17 And this became known to all the Jews and Greeks living in Ephesus, and they were all struck with terror, and the name of the Lord Jesus was hallowed.

How much power does the Lord give to those who know Him, those who believe in Him so deeply that their thoughts, hearts, and desires are one in their capital city? It says, "God did extraordinary and powerful deeds one after another by the hand of Paul."

So it is the highest praise and honor for a Christian to say, "This man was also with Jesus.

But how did Peter respond?

22:57 Peter dismissed it, saying, "I do not know the man.

The honor and fortune of knowing Jesus should have been our joy and life forever. But he had given it up for nothing. He became selfless, lost himself, and did not know what he was doing, exactly as the Lord had prayed for forgiveness from the cross.

In fear, in difficulty, in weariness, in temptation, the waves and winds of trial blew relentlessly upon him, and he could not withstand them and fell.

Matthew 26:41 Keep awake and pray, lest you fall into temptation. For the mind is hot, but the flesh is weak."

Luke 22:32 But I prayed for you, that your faith might not fail. So when you have recovered, strengthen your brethren."

Intense and tremendous temptations, trials, and struggles, to a terrible extent, make us deny

all the three years of solid faith, gratitude, and happiness that we had loved and respected the Lord and followed him even to the point of laying down our lives.

I do not know him."

The first disciple. If the first disciple among the disciples, the one who was like a split bamboo, intuitive, and willing to follow wherever he went, was in this condition, the other disciples were also in a miserable state.

Was all that Jesus had taught and served day and night with all his heart and soul in vain?

I do not know him.

I have nothing to do with such a person. He has no value in my life. I have nothing to do with him. No respect. No influence. Because I have nothing to do with that person, because I do not know him. What cruel words in the face of Jesus. What cruel words in the presence of the Master who is about to lay down his life for his disciple.

22:58 After a while, others saw Peter and said, "You are one of them. Peter said, "No, I am not.

22:59 After about an hour, another insisted, "Yes, this man was with Jesus. He is a Galilean, too.

22:60 Peter said, "I do not understand what you are saying. And immediately, before he had finished, the cock crowed.

Once he denied it, and again and again, even three times he repeated that he did not know the Lord. Is it possible that once a lie or a denial is made, the hurdle is lowered and it becomes easier and easier to do? What was in his heart? In Matthew 26, there are words that seem to indicate that he was so fed up with being asked over and over again that he dropped everything and declared a complete and utter break with them once and for all.

26:74 He began to swear fiercely, saying, "I know nothing of the man." Then immediately the cock crowed.

26:75 Peter remembered the words of Jesus, who said, "Before the cock crows, you will say three times that you do not know me," and he went out and wept violently.

Indeed, it turned out to be just as Jesus had once said to Peter. What Peter did not believe,

because he thought it could not happen, came true for him.

22:60 Peter said, "I do not understand what you are saying. And before he had finished, at once the cock crowed.

22:61 And the Lord turned and looked at Peter. Then Peter remembered the words of the Lord, who had said, "Today, before the cock goes away, you will say three times that you do not know me.

The sound of the cock at the break of dawn. Then Jesus turned toward him and saw Peter. Jesus' eyes staring straight at him, just as the maid had stared at him sceptically earlier. But His gaze was lived. It was full of compassion and mercy.

To look back is to reflect. The guide on the mountain path, seeing that the group was following him properly, looked back many times as he went along, concerned and caring for them. However, those who did not care about others would continue onward without regard for those behind them. They don't care if the person behind them gets lost or not. But Jesus is the one who cares deeply.

Luke 22:32 But I prayed for you, that your faith might not fail. So when you get back on your feet, give strength to your brothers.

22:34 Then Jesus said, "Peter, I say to you, do not be afraid. Today, before the cock cries, you will say three times that you do not know me.

22:61 And the Lord turned and looked at Peter. Then Peter remembered the words of the Lord, who had said, "Today, before the cock cries, you will say three times that you do not know me.

22:62 And he went out and wept bitterly.

What about us? Are we not the same as Peter?

We may be ungrateful and unsympathetic people who think only of ourselves, giving up on the Lord who is our great benefactor, the Lord who was pierced and suffered and was humiliated because of me.

However, the Lord does not forsake such a treacherous person who is a filial, insolent, and insolent master who smears his face, but gives us his regard. He looks back and cares for us.

In His gaze are these words.

22:32 But I prayed for you, that your faith might not fail. So when you get back on your feet, give strength to your brothers.

We can only keep going in faith because of this love and prayer. How shallow, depthless, and miserable we are, no matter how far we go, how much we learn, and how much of the Lord's patronage we receive. But we are still called to be disciples by the Lord's mercy and patronage, and we recover in faith, and thus the weak help and strengthen each other to go on.

22:63 Those who were watching Jesus taunted and beat Him,

22:64 They cast a hail of bullets into his eyes and said, "Guess who it was that struck him.

22:64 And they asked him, "Guess who it was that struck him.

22:65 They said many other things and taunted Him.

It is a bloodcurdling and terrible feeling to see man's arrogance toward the One who created the heavens and the earth. How many trials await us as we move forward in this world! We are faced with many problems, both outside and within ourselves.

But for us, nevertheless, there is the Lord's deep concern. He looks back and sees us, and He will never abandon us.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, thank you for today's worship. You are the One who waits, watches, cares, cares for us, loves us, cares for us, turns to us, and looks at us. In our desperation, in our selflessness, we forget the most important things, we lose our way and wander, and we are moved to tears by our great failures, but the look you turn and look back at us is not the stare of the accuser, but a look filled with warmth and forgiving love. Thank you so much for your kindness. Please guide all sufferers into God's salvation and peace. Bless our families and the people in our community. We pray in the name of the Lord Jesus. Amen.