

## Fighting the Right Fight the Wrong Way

### I. Peter Loved Jesus - But Reacted in the Flesh

#### John 18:2-11 (NLT)

Jesus had said on many different occasions, that he would have to suffer and die...

- 3 major Passion Predictions (Synoptic Gospels – repeated 3x each)
- 5 symbolic/prophetic statements (John and Synoptics)
- 3 Last Supper references (Body/Blood/Preparation)
- 3 indirect references or fulfillments

Total: ~14-15 distinct moments where Jesus refers to His death.

#### As disciples we can act like Peter too:

- We lack perspective of kingdom things.
- We face crisis in the flesh and not through faith.
- Sometimes, it's easier to pull out a sword than to pick up a cross.
- We fight people instead of fighting sin.
- We win arguments online, but lose influence.

#### As disciples we must remember:

- Our job isn't to "fix" everything; it's to be faithful.
- *Galatians 5:16-17*: Walk by the Spirit, not the flesh.
- *Romans 12:2*: Renew your mind; don't conform to worldly thinking.

### II. Peter's Zeal was Real, but Misdirected

#### Peter spent time with Jesus:

- He loved Jesus.
- He was often the first to speak, act, or step forward.
- Bold, brave, vocal, deeply loyal.

#### But his zeal often needed redirection:

- It sometimes came from human thinking, pride, or fear.
- It wasn't always aligned with God's plan.

#### Matthew 16:21-23

- Often lacked *prayerful reflection, spiritual perspective*.
- Passion for Jesus is good, but without prayer and wisdom, it can cause harm.
- Instead of praying in Gethsemane, Peter slept – and when the test came, he reacted in the flesh.

### Matthew 26:37-41 (NIV)

#### As disciples we can act like Peter too:

- We act quickly to “help” God rather than waiting prayerfully.
- We are tempted to draw our swords instead of bowing in prayer.
- We are passionate but forget to ask for God’s wisdom.

#### As disciples we must remember:

- It’s not enough to be passionate; we must also be surrendered.
- God still redeems our failures.
- Your mistakes don’t disqualify you; they can become part of your testimony.

### III. Jesus Covers Peter’s Mistake

#### Jesus didn’t discard Peter – He refined him:

- **Only recorded in Luke 22:51** – *Jesus touched the man’s ear and healed him.*
- Last miracle from Jesus.
- Jesus saved Peter from Capital Punishment.
- Jesus didn’t shame Peter – He cleaned up the mess and covered the mistake.
- Jesus used this moment to correct, refine, and ultimately use Peter’s zeal to build His church.
- Used Peter’s same boldness to preach at Pentecost (Acts 2).

#### As disciples we must remember:

- Peter’s failure didn’t ruin God’s plan.
- Peter’s failure didn’t prevent him from being used by God.
- Your missteps don’t end your story; they become places where God’s grace shines brightest.
- Your mistakes don’t disqualify you; they can become part of your testimony.
- God can use you too.



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