

judas & peter

face to face | week five

post falls campus | march 22nd | jim putman



When You Fail Jesus: Peter vs. Judas

In the final hours of Jesus' life, we see two men who failed Him deeply:

- Peter denied Jesus three times. Judas betrayed Jesus for money.
- Both failed, but their responses to failure were completely different.

1. Both Peter and Judas Were Close to Jesus

They walked with Jesus for three years. They heard His teaching. They saw miracles. They were trusted leaders among the disciples.

- Judas | John 12:4–6 tells us Judas handled the money bag.
- Peter | Peter was one of the inner three (Peter, James, John).

Both had incredible access to Jesus. Which reminds us:

Being close to spiritual things does not guarantee spiritual health. You can sit in church, lead ministry, know scripture, and still fail.

2. Both Men Failed Jesus Publicly

Judas Betrayed Jesus | **Matthew 26:48–49**

Peter Denied Jesus | **Luke 22:60–61**

Peter denied even knowing Jesus three times. Both men failed Jesus in a moment when loyalty mattered most.

3. Both Men Felt Deep Regret

- People assume Judas didn't feel bad, but the Bible tells us he did. He returned the silver.

Judas | **Matthew 27:3**

Peter | **Luke 22:62**

Two people can feel the same guilt and end up in completely different places.

4. The Difference: Where They Took Their Failure

Judas Took His Failure Away From Jesus and Others & Separated Himself | **Matthew 27:3-5**

Notice the movement in the text:

- He feels remorse. He returns the money. He leaves. He isolates himself. He dies alone

Peter Took His Failure Toward Jesus and others

- After the resurrection, Jesus specifically calls for Peter | **Mark 16:7**

Jesus then restores Peter publicly | **John 21:15-17**

- Three times Jesus asks: Peter, do you love me?"
- Three denials. Three restorations.

5. The Real Difference Was Repentance that Leads to Hope

- Being with the other disciples helped him regain hope
- When others fail, do you help them act more like Judas or Peter
- Peter believed Jesus was greater than his failure.
- Judas believed his failure was greater than Jesus' mercy.
- One believed grace was possible, the other believed he was beyond forgiveness.
- That belief changed their future.

John 1:8-9 (NIV) | 2 Corinthians 7:10 (NIV) | James 5:16 (NIV)

6. Peter Became a Leader in the Early Church

The man who denied Jesus became the man who preached at Pentecost | **Luke 24:33-34**

The difference between Peter and Judas was not the size of their sin.
It was the direction they ran after they sinned.

In our failure, the enemy whispers:

"You're done."

"You've gone too far."

"God can't use you anymore."

But the cross says: Failure is not final when you run back to Jesus.

The question is not "Will you fail?" The question is "What will you do after you fail?"

