

## Mark 14:27-31

### “Confidence”

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#### I. **Introduction**

During a fierce battle of the Civil War, Confederate General Richard Ewell, looked across the battle field at the Union troops his army had been trading gun fire with 70 yards away. He noticed a Union Cavalry officer walking boldly out front and unprotected risking death to encourage his troops. General Ewell was so impressed with the action that he ordered his soldiers to not shoot the union officer. After the battle General Ewell was reprimanded by none other than his commanding officer “Stonewall Jackson”. When asked why he had ordered his soldiers to not fire on that Union officer, General Ewell replied, *“I admired him, sir, he was a brave officer!”* Stonewall Jackson’s reply was, *“Ewell, if you want to win this war, shoot the BRAVE officers – then the cowards will run away taking the rest of the men with them.”* I’m not certain that “Stonewall Jackson” knew it but he was for all practical purposes quoting Jesus own words *“Strike the Shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered.”* In this brief section there are two things to notice:

- a. Vs. 27-28 Jesus fully understood what was about to happen to Him. He not only understood it but anticipated it and even mad plans for it.
- b. Vs. 29-31 The disciples didn’t see any of what was about to happen to them. What’s even worse they all over estimated their own abilities.

One of the surprising elements of Jesus final few hours is the contrast between Jesus and His disciples as it relates to their confidence:

- 1. The absolute secure confidence of our Lord despite the situation He was facing.

He was absolutely confident that He would remain victorious and never failing in His ability to maintain His watch over His disciples as their Shepherd.

2. This is contrasted against the false confidence of the disciples as it relates to their personal devotion and the power they falsely believed in their own will to carry this devotion ill regardless of the circumstances they were about to face. This false sense of security was what led to their soon scattering.

## II. Vs. 27-28 Trusting the Shepherd

Vs. 27 They has just sung the song declaring Gods enduring loving kindness and made the walk in the full moon of Passover across the Brook of Kidron, no doubt red with the blood of a 1000 lambs for sacrifice. As They came to the Mount of Olives Jesus makes this statement. *“All of you will be made to stumble because of Me this night..”* The word *“stumble”* in the Greek is where we get our English word **“scandalized”**. How startling this prediction of Jesus must have been as the disciples heard that He is **“Going to be the object over which all of them will be offended.”** I like the fact that Jesus is telling them ahead of time; He knows that they are going to stumble because of Him. In an odd way I find it reassuring as Jesus is saying, *“I know your frame guy’s and I know that you are going to act different then where you think your heart is.”*

I have little doubt that Jesus knew and had read the scriptures, specifically the messianic prophecies. He had spoken to the Father about them as John chapter 17 clearly indicates. I also believe that the Holy Spirit made known to Jesus the things not in the scriptures. Yet with that said the things Jesus tells His disciples in this quote from Zech. 13:7, was something that they were apparently unaware as it relates to our fallen human nature. When you look at the full quote in Zechariah 13:7 it reads, *“Awake, O sword, against My Shepherd, against the Man who is My Companion, say the Lord of hosts. Strike the Shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered; then I will turn Mt hand against the little ones.”* Comparing these two we see that Jesus changed the wording in the Greek

from the “*imperative mode*” of “***strike the shepherd***” to the “*indicative mode*” of “***I WILL strike the shepherd***”. This makes these words come from God the Father striking the Shepherd, Jesus, making the result that the sheep becoming scattered. This means that the striking of the Shepherd that Jesus makes reference of is about to happen in the Garden of Gethsemane, the scattering of the sheep will take place according to Mark 14 in verse 50 as we see that “*Then they all forsook Him and fled.*” We all like to be identified with winners and as long as the Shepherd was keeping the flock, whipping up on all the wolves, lions, bears, they were all jumping up and down wearing their team jerseys saying, “*I’m a member of the **SHEPHERDS**, and we are undefeated!*”

Months back in Luke chapter 10 verse 17 as Jesus was sent the 70 disciples out they came back saying, “*Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name.*” But Jesus said, “*..do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rather rejoice because your names are written in heaven.*” Jesus understood human tendency to do ***get all caught up in the individual moments that we lose sight of the mission.***

Vs. 28 Jesus knew that this was about to happen this night in the Garden of Gethsemane but He also knew “*But after **I HAVE BEEN RAISED**, I will go before you to Galilee.*” ***What reassurance to these who will be in a short time scattered that even though they will abandon Him, He will nonetheless still not only be their Shepherd but will still be standing watch, guarding His flock.***

What was about to happen in a few hours was not the final out come, it was instead the sign of the ultimate victory. I pray that this encourages you this morning, perhaps you are experiencing some circumstance right now in your life and you feel like a failure. Saints, as a believer in Christ the game is not over! ***The truth is Jesus is going***

*on ahead of us, after He has already won the game!* Jesus never spoke of the cross that He didn't also speak of His resurrection, yet these fellows never seemed to grasp that. Not one of them believed that Jesus would be raised from the dead. Perhaps that was because not one of them wanted to consider the reality of His death. That being said, isn't wonderful that our initial lack of belief with regards to the resurrection doesn't impact its reality nor does it it hinders our ability to believe it it's reality later!

### III. Vs. 29-31 Failure of the flesh

Vs. 29 *The 2<sup>nd</sup> thing that Mark records about this incident to the bravado of Peter and the disciples.* With that great pep-talk of Jesus about human failure and His faithfulness, Peter, missed what He was telling them. Jesus was saying that, "*ultimate victory was won*" and that *victory was not based upon man's faithfulness but rather on His.* Peter's confidence is very unfortunate as it is NOT in the Lord's resurrection but rather in the confidence of his own will, which Jesus accurately predicted would fail. The Greek wording of "*even if*" reveals Peter's confidence in a *twofold certainty*:

1. In *the estimation of the ability of his own will*
  2. In *the likelihood that rest of the disciples would fail, where he would succeed*
- He was still stuck on those word's "*all of you*". Making the same mistake that we often do about our selves, *the over estimation of our own ability.* "*I know myself man and I will never be made to fall away from you.*" Peter's problem was that he was a passionate strong man and there lie his weakness. Peter is telling the Lord, "*Hey, Lord, I used to be Shifting Sand (Simon) but you re-named **The Rock.***" "*So the **all of you** must have meant, **all of them!***" Peter had started believing his own press reports. There is only One that is invincible only One that never fails and it's not me nor any other person, it's Jesus. To

many people put their trust in themselves or others only to see their hopes dashed.

Vs. 30 But ***Jesus turns Peter's boast into a prophecy of his failure***. In the Greek Jesus gives three specific things with regards to the timing of Peter's failure:

- **Today**: The Jew's took this to mean around 6 P.M.
- **Even this night**: This would have placed it after sunset
- **Before the rooster crows twice**: There were four watches of the night and between midnight and 3 A.M. was known as the "cock crowing hours" which was before sunrise and would make this sometime before 2 A.M.

Jesus rebuffs his self-confidence by saying that in only a few hours he will deny Him three times. Well did Paul warn us in 1 Cor. 10:12 "*Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.*" I appreciate our Lord's use of illustrations don't you? How appropriate it is that the final reference as to the time of Peter's failure is forever linked to the "*roosters crow*". Peter's boastful attitude linked to the "*cocky call*" of a rooster who is always sounding off "*cocksure*" of their ability!

Vs. 31 The Greek words "*spoke more vehemently*" is in the imperfect meaning that Peter kept on speaking in passionate irritation. Instead of heading the warning, Peter says that he was ready to die for the Lord. The truth is most people are all ready to die for a winner, but what do we do when we feel as if our Shepherd has become a Lamb? Ever notice after some Pro team wins the title how many folks start warring their apparel? In Christ you will always have a winner, but His winning has nothing to do with your character or ability, it has everything to do with His!