



Denial and scattering of the flock.

Matt. 26:31 – 35; Mark 14:27 - 31; Luke 22:31 – 34; John 13:36 – 38

- **Matt. 26:31 – 32 NKJV** “Then Jesus said to them, “All of you will be made to stumble because of Me this night, for it is written: ‘I will strike the Shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.’ But after I have been raised, I will go before you to Galilee.”

Jesus predicts that all twelve of His disciples will abandon Him, quoting from **Zechariah 13:7 (Matt. 26:31; Mark 14:27)**. At this point, Peter speaks up and states that even if everyone else falls away, he never will. Jesus responds that Peter will disown Him three times before the rooster crows. In typical fashion, Peter boldly declares that he will not deny the Lord.

- **Zechariah 13:7 NKJV** “‘Awake, O sword, against My Shepherd, against the Man who is My Companion,’ says the Lord of hosts. ‘Strike the Shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered; then I will turn My hand against the little ones.’”
- **Matthew 26:35 NKJV** “Peter said to Him, ‘Even if I have to die with You, I will not deny You!’”

This had to have been quite a night for Jesus. First He sits and dines with the one who will betray Him and now He must expose that Peter will deny his allegiance to the Lord, not just once but three times in a short span. How often have we doubted the Lord, only to find out that what He had spoken to us in prayer, or through journaling or by way of a prophecy was, in fact, the truth? Most of us are much like Peter, thinking that we are spiritual in our daily walk, but really needing to be reprovved, corrected and instructed in the things of righteousness. There is much to be learned through the example of Peter, not only in this study, but throughout the New Testament. In him, we see a transition from a bold and boastful man (during the early days of Christ's ministry), to a broken man (just after the Lord's crucifixion), then to a bold and confident apostle, full of the Holy Spirit and sensitive to His leading and purposes.

It is also interesting that all the way through this process, Old Testament prophecy is being fulfilled. It's just another example of the obvious fact that you cannot have a New Testament without the Old Testament. Everything that Jesus did was based upon the Law that was given to Moses on top of the mountain. Much of Jesus' speech contained Old Testament references. He did not come to abolish the Law, but rather to fulfill it (**Mat. 5:17**).

- **Matthew 5:17 NKJV** “Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill.”

Prophecy & Fulfillment

The Messiah would be forsaken by His disciples.

Prophecy

Zechariah 13:7 "Awake, O sword, against My Shepherd, against the Man who is My Companion," says the LORD of hosts. "Strike the Shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered; then I will turn My hand against the little ones."⁴⁷

Fulfillment

Matthew 26:31 "Then Jesus said to them, "All of you will be made to stumble because of Me this night, for it is written: 'I will strike the Shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.'"

Matthew 26:55 – 56 "In that hour Jesus said to the multitudes, "Have you come out, as against a robber, with swords and clubs to take Me? I sat daily with you, teaching in the temple, and you did not seize Me. ⁵⁶But all this was done that the Scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled." Then all the disciples forsook Him and fled."

Mark 14:27 "Then Jesus said to them, "All of you will be made to stumble because of Me this night, for it is written: 'I will strike the Shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered.'"

Mark 14:48 – 50 "⁴⁸Then Jesus answered and said to them, "Have you come out, as against a robber, with swords and clubs to take Me? ⁴⁹I was daily with you in the temple teaching, and you did not seize Me. But the Scriptures must be fulfilled."⁵⁰Then they all forsook Him and fled.