

Restoring Deserting Disciples

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I. Introduction.

- A. Text: Matthew 26:30-35.
- B. There are times as disciples that we desert for shame's sake.
- C. Jesus chose to bring up to the disciples that they all had deserted.
- D. He prepares the disciples through this important lesson about strengthening.
- E. The disciples thought that they were able to stand. (Proverbs 3, Matthew 26:56)
- F. Believers are not to be ashamed of Christ, although sometimes they are ashamed and defected. (II Timothy 1, Romans 1:16, 9:33, Mark 8:38)
- G. The great lesson is that strength is born out of the recognition of weakness.

II. There was a contrast in knowledge between Jesus and the disciples. (Psalm 136, John 14-17, 18:1)

- A. The disciples were ignorant of their own weaknesses and the plan of God.
- B. Jesus knew all that would happen in contrast. The scattering of the disciples would be the first stage of the chaos that would happen according to Zechariah. (Zechariah 13:7)

III. There was a contrast in courage.

- A. The disciples were afraid of a trap.
- B. The group fell apart after the crucifixion. (Proverbs 21:5, Luke 21:4)

IV. There was a contrast in power and weakness.

- A. The disciples were afraid to face the moment of death.
- B. Jesus faced the cross knowing that there was power to conquer death. (Romans 6:4, Matthew 16:17-20, Hebrews 11:17, John 11:47)
- C. We have to learn to stop trusting ourselves. (II Corinthians 12)

V. There was a contrast between pride and humility.

A. Peter was proud and egotistical. (John 13:36, Matthew 26:33, Luke 22:31)

B. Peter contradicted the Lord, he claimed to be better than others were and he trusted in his own strength. All the other disciples said the same thing.

VI. There was a contrast between their desertion and His restoration. (Psalm 36, John 21)

A. God is merciful towards disciples that have deserted.

B. We must learn that our resources are not in our own strength. (Acts 5:40)

C. We can conquer uncompromisingly when God restores us.

Application questions:

1. How did the disciples of Jesus show surprising weakness?

2. How does Jesus contrast to the disciples in these weaknesses?

3. What is the key in conquering these weaknesses? How can you be consistent in applying this key in your own life? Explain.
