

MISSING THE MARK



Three Strikes

Matthew 26:69-75

⁶⁹ Now Peter was sitting out in the courtyard, and a servant girl came to him. "You also were with Jesus of Galilee," she said. ⁷⁰ But he denied it before them all. "I don't know what you're talking about," he said.

Matthew 26:69-75

⁷¹ Then he went out to the gateway, where another servant girl saw him and said to the people there, "This fellow was with Jesus of Nazareth." ⁷² He denied it again, with an oath: "I don't know the man!" ⁷³ After a little while, those standing there went up to Peter and said, "Surely you are one of them; your accent gives you away."

Matthew 26:69-75

⁷⁴ Then he began to call down curses, and he swore to them, "I don't know the man!" Immediately a rooster crowed. ⁷⁵ Then Peter remembered the word Jesus had spoken: "Before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times." And he went outside and wept bitterly.

Where is Peter going?

Farther away from Jesus.

Peter is "in the courtyard" while all the other disciples had abandoned Jesus.



The first time Peter is accused of being "with Jesus," it comes from a servant girl.



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"I don't know what you're talking about."

"Peter takes refuge in an evasion rather than in an outright denial."



Peter has relocated. He's now out by "the gateway."



Where is Peter going?

Farther away from Jesus.

Peter has relocated. He's now out by "the gateway."



The second accusation comes from "another servant girl."



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An uncomfortable truth gets harder to carry the more people there are who know about it.

Where is Peter going?

Farther away from Jesus.

The second accusation comes from "another servant girl."

An uncomfortable truth gets harder to carry the more people there are who know about it.

This denial of knowing Jesus is given "with an oath."

The third accusation is from “those standing there.”



"your accent gives you away"



Who we are at our core, and how much devotion and faithfulness we truly have to Jesus... it all leaks out at some point.

“he began to call down curses”

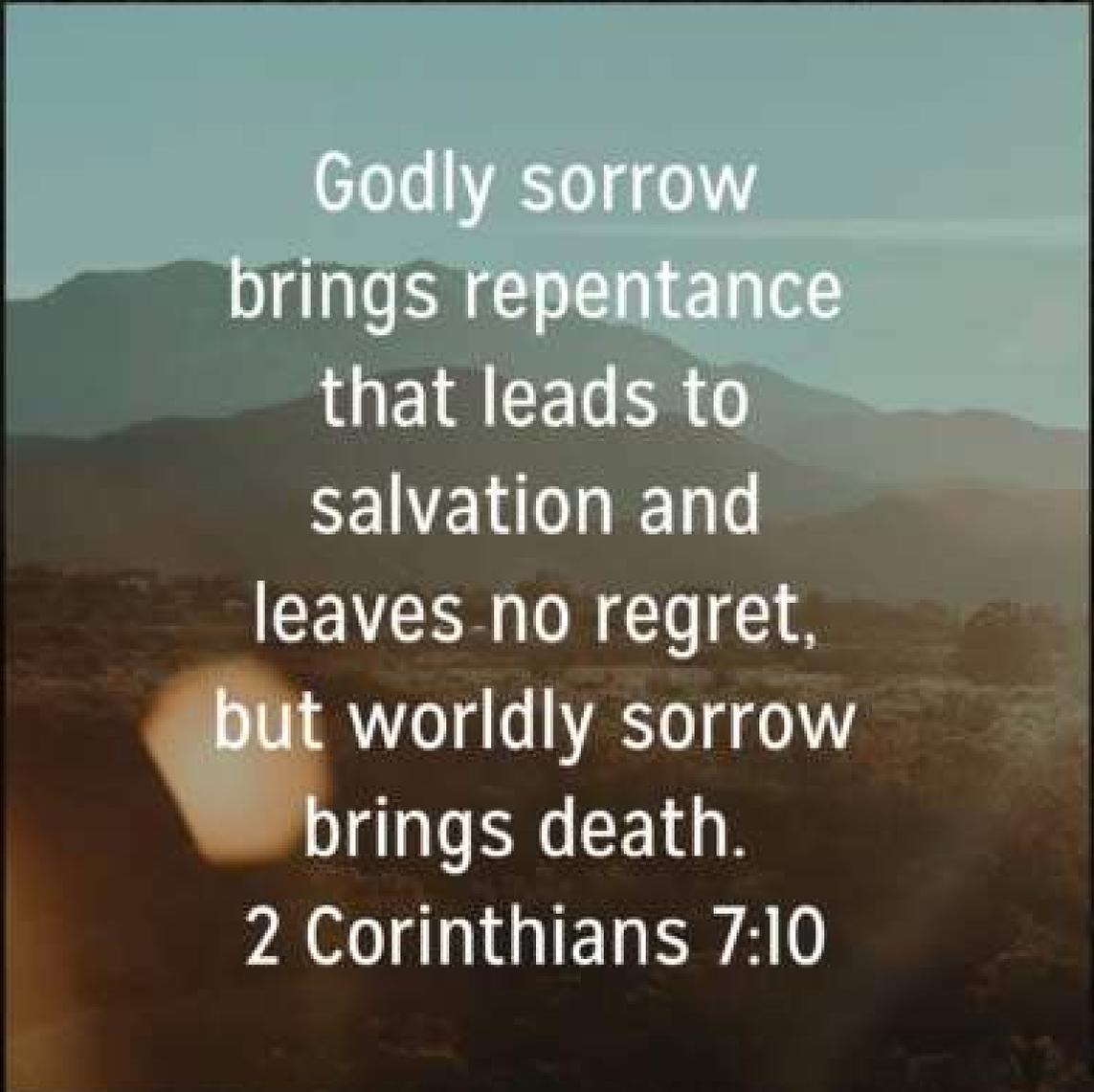


After his final denial, Peter is "outside, weeping."



Where is Peter going?

Farther away from Jesus.



Godly sorrow
brings repentance
that leads to
salvation and
leaves no regret,
but worldly sorrow
brings death.
2 Corinthians 7:10

After his final denial, Peter is "outside, weeping."



Closing Reflections

Do you struggle admitting to people that you “know” Jesus, or are “with” Jesus? Is that a conversation that you evade? Is there any part of your affiliation with Christ that makes you embarrassed or afraid?

Closing Reflections

Are you carrying a burdensome and uncomfortable truth? Do you fear what might happen if more people knew about it? Have you considered the freedom and/or integrity found in releasing it to others?

Closing Reflections

Think of someone you know who often gets loud, belligerent, and offensive in order to hide or deflect the truth... and pray for that person.

Closing Reflections

Are you weeping under the weight of regret? Ask the Spirit to transform that into "Godly sorrow" that can lead to repentance and salvation.

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