

Thursday, April 6, 2023  
Season of Lent  
Day 38

**Matthew 26:31–35**

<sup>31</sup> Then Jesus told them, “This very night you will all fall away on account of me, for it is written:

“‘I will strike the shepherd,  
and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.’”

<sup>32</sup> But after I have risen, I will go ahead of you into Galilee.”

<sup>33</sup> Peter replied, “Even if all fall away on account of you, I never will.”

<sup>34</sup> “Truly I tell you,” Jesus answered, “this very night, before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times.”

<sup>35</sup> But Peter declared, “Even if I have to die with you, I will never disown you.” And all the other disciples said the same.

**Reflection**

Here is the high point of grace. Jesus has told his disciples (including us) that in order to be his disciples we must take up our crosses and follow him. But, here is a scene where Jesus knows that he will be abandoned. Despite the bravado, these disciples will cling to their lives rather than die with him. Yet, before the moment of denial, there is reconciliation planned. Jesus says that he will meet them post-resurrection.

This reminds me of Paul’s message in Romans: where sin abounds, grace abounds even more! This is good news for you and I who also deny Jesus by choosing sin again and again. Thank God that through the cross of Christ, God’s grace abounds even more.

**Prayer**

Lord, thank you for your amazing, unmerited, overwhelming grace. Amen.