

**“Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden,
and I will give you rest.**

**Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me,
for I am gentle and lowly in heart,
and you will find rest for your souls.**

**For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”
(Matthew 11:28-30)**

1) *The Surprising Shock of Embracing Bad*

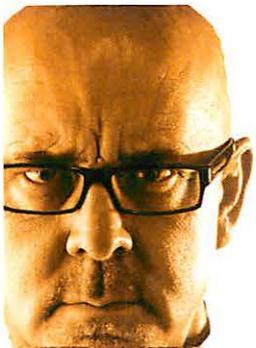
- A) The Bible says the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, waiting for you to turn your back (1 Peter 5:8).
- B) Interesting that Peter is the guy who wrote those words. Peter knew what it was like to be called by Jesus (Luke 5:1-11), and Peter also knew about a prowling and ravenous devil!
- C) Peter, along with his fellow disciples, was no stranger to making passionate promises (Matthew 26:33-35).
- D) But just as Jesus had already predicted to Peter, just before daybreak, Peter betrayed Jesus (26:69-75).
- E) Peter begins his betrayal just outside, then he retreats further away from Jesus, and with a final glance back at Jesus (Luke 22:61), Peter flees from Jesus, weeping bitterly.

2) *The Weight and Burden of Betrayal*

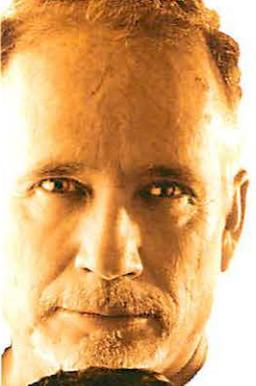
- A) In one moment, Peter is declaring his undivided loyalty, in the next, as surprising as an attacking lion, Peter is betraying Jesus and running into the night.



ALL BAD THINGS MUST COME TO AN END



- B) Has life ever taken a turn you didn't see coming?
One moment, it is well with your soul.
The next, it seems all hell is breaking loose.
- C) Has it ever been you running away?
You've made passionate promises to God.
But now you can't believe who you've become.
- D) How do you respond when you sin?
Not some Charmin-soft-not-really-a-sin.
I mean the big stuff. Betrayal. Denial.
When the bad is breaking you, when you can't even see Jesus anymore.
- E) Can you imagine what happened inside of Peter?
Crushing guilt, terrible shame, brutal self-doubt.
Sin always promises one thing, and then gives another.
- F) Judas Iscariot betrayed Jesus, and just like Peter,
he betrayed Jesus right to his face. But, when Judas fled,
he killed himself. Sin always brings death. Always.



3) *Sinners In The Hands Of God*

- A) Peter did not kill himself. Instead, he went fishing.
No joke (John 21:3). Obviously disqualified and a failure,
he went back to his old job, his old life, his old boat.
- B) Does this next part sound familiar?
Peter and his fellow fisherman caught nothing.
A random guy on shore (incognito Jesus) gives
the fisherman some advice, and BAM (21:4-8)!
- C) Then comes the moment. For the first time since Peter's
face-to-face denial, Jesus talks face-to-face with Peter.
Jesus only has one question for Peter, "do you love me?"
Imagine what Peter must have felt and thought (21:15-19)!
- D) Did Jesus get angry with Peter, verbally abuse him for his failure,
shred him in front of his friends, or reject him for his denials?
Not once. Not a single time. Jesus crushed sin. Sin was not the problem.
- E) Jesus reminded Peter he was not supposed to be fishing for fish.
Peter was called to fish for men. The best place for Peter was right there,
a sinner saved by the hands of a loving God. And, it's the best place for us, too.

