



# Calvary of Albuquerque

F.A.Q. - John 13:36-38

From the Series, Believe:879

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## MESSAGE SUMMARY

An old Persian Proverb reads, "It's harder to ask a sensible question than to supply a sensible answer." Many times our questions to God are reactive—based on a sort of knee-jerk reaction to painful circumstances. Peter asked Jesus two questions of this sort. But whenever we ask God questions we must hang around to get the supplied answers. The questions Peter asked are similar to ones we frequently ask. Let's consider and apply Jesus' outstanding answer

## OUTLINE

### I. Questions from a Confused Follower

A. Lord, Where?

B. Lord, Why?

### II. Answers from a Confident Savior

A. Your Faithfulness is Expected

B. Your Future is Assured

C. Your Failure is Anticipated



## Pondering the Principles:

1. Look up and meditate on these Scriptures: Deuteronomy 4:7 and 29, Psalm 91:15, Psalm 145:8, Isaiah 65:24, and Luke 11:9-13. What do these verses tell you about the God you talk to?
2. Test your listening abilities: Listen to a story in a group and ask different people to recall it. How do the details differ from person to person? In what ways do you selectively listen to God? How could your questions be clouding your ability to listen to God's answers?

## DETAILED NOTES

### I. Introduction

#### A. God answers questions

1. "Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know." (Jeremiah 33:3)
2. The Holy Spirit lives inside us
3. The Word of God directs us

#### B. An interruption by Peter turns into a conversation between Peter and Jesus

#### C. Peter is prominent

1. Speaks more than other apostles
2. Addressed by Christ more than the other apostles
3. Rebuked by Jesus more than other apostles
4. In lists of apostles, Peter is always first on the list (Judas is always last)

#### D. Frequently asked questions

1. Lord, where are you?
2. Lord, why did you let this happen?

### II. Questions from a Confused Follower

#### A. Lord, Where?

1. Peter's question reveals his self-centeredness
  - a. Jesus spoke about glorifying God, loving one another, demonstrating the reality of who we are by our love for one another

- b. Peter's focus is that Jesus said He is leaving
  - i. Not "Show me how to glorify the Father"
  - ii. Not "Show me how to love"
  - iii. Peter didn't care as much about those
- 2. How are we just like Peter?
  - a. The Lord tries to reveal profound, life-changing truth
  - b. We don't hear because we are focused on our own immediate need

B. *Lord, Why?*

- 1. The disciples argued about who would be the greatest
  - a. Peter viewed this news as a test
    - i. Peter wanted to pass
    - ii. Jesus had revealed one would betray Him
    - iii. Like when Jesus asked "Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?" (Matthew 16:13)
    - iv. Peter wants to prove he is not the betrayer
  - b. Mark 14:27-31 "If I have to die with You, I will not deny You!" (v. 31)
    - i. Peter felt misjudged
    - ii. He thought himself so loyal, he would never do that
  - c. Jesus knew Peter better than Peter knew Peter: He predicts exactly what would happen
- 2. When we get spiritually puffed up, we think we won't blow it
  - a. Like the mother whale told her baby: "Once you get to the top and you start to blow, that's when you get harpooned."
  - b. "Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall." (1 Corinthians 10:12)
  - c. Overconfident

III. Answers from a Confident Savior

A. Your Faithfulness is Expected

- 1. Jesus is going back to heaven, Peter can't follow now (cryptic answer)
  - a. What good would a direct answer do?
    - i. Peter isn't grasping the answers
    - ii. Jesus had told the disciples directly, and Peter said No! (See Matthew 16:21-22)
  - b. Jesus' answer reveals Peter would go later
    - i. You can't come now
    - ii. In the meantime, just be a follower
- 2. After Jesus rises from the dead and is about to ascend: "Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, 'Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?' And He said to them, 'It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority. But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.'" (Acts 1:6-8)
- 3. Don't worry about the end times, worry about the meantime
- 4. We can't go to heaven *yet*
  - a. "I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also." (John 14:2-3)
  - b. We have a purpose to fulfill here: God has a plan and a purpose
    - i. "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God." (Romans 12:1-2)
    - ii. We should tell God: "Here is my life: Show me what your will is for me right here, right now."

B. Your Future is Assured

- 1. You shall follow me afterward
  - a. According to church tradition, Peter died in Rome in 67 AD; crucified upside-down, because he said he wasn't worthy to die in the same manner as the Lord
  - b. Peter followed Jesus in life, in death, and in glory
  - c. Certainty: you *shall*, not: I hope you make it!
- 2. Salvation should be a sure thing for those who follow Christ; if you follow Him today, you should know you will follow Him into heaven
  - a. "These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life," (1 John 5:13)
  - b. "And Jesus said to him, 'Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise.'" (Luke 23:43)
  - c. Like ticketed and standby passengers at the airport
    - i. Ticketed are relaxed
    - ii. Standby hover and unsure
    - iii. Both might make it, the difference is confidence
- 3. Will Jesus say, "Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord." (Matthew 25:21)?
  - a. You need to be sure of it
  - b. How can you know? Because Jesus said so: "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." (John 3:16)
  - c. "If you believe in Christ and are damned, I shall be damned with you." —C. H. Spurgeon

C. Your Failure is Anticipated (Your imperfection in following Jesus is anticipated)

- 1. Jesus asked "Will you lay down your life for my sake?"
- 2. Jesus laid His life down for Peter, not Peter for Jesus
- 3. Jesus predicts his failure

- a. Peter will deny he even knows who Jesus is
- b. "While he was still speaking, the rooster crowed. And the Lord turned and looked at Peter. And Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how He had said to him, 'Before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times.'" (Luke 22:60-61)
- 4. God knows all about you.
  - a. When you fail, Jesus is not surprised
  - b. "For He knows our frame; He remembers that we are dust." (Psalm 103:14)
- 5. Jesus predicted Peter's rising: "And the Lord said, 'Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat. But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren.'" (Luke 22:26-36)
  - a. Like football player Roy Riegels; ran wrong way, but the game was only half over
  - b. Do you feel you've failed the Lord at some point? Want a do over?
  - c. Even Peter had a deep and dark failure
  - d. "They shall mount up with wings like eagles," (Isaiah 40:31)

**Figures Referenced:** C. H. Spurgeon; Roy Riegels

**Cross References:** Psalm 103:14; Isaiah 40:31; Jeremiah 33:3; Matthew 16:13; Matthew 16:21-22; Matthew 25:21; Mark 14:27-31 ; Luke 22:26-36; Luke 22:60-61; Luke 23:43; John 3:16; John 14:2-3; Acts 1:6-8; Romans 12:1-2; 1 Corinthians 10:12; 1 John 5:13