

# THE END

## I

### **Text: Mathew 26:55-58**

*55 In that hour Jesus said to the multitudes, “Have you come out, as against a robber, with swords and clubs to take Me? I sat daily with you, teaching in the temple, and you did not seize Me. 56 But all this was done that the Scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled.” Then all the disciples forsook Him and fled. 57 And those who had laid hold of Jesus led Him away to Caiaphas the high priest, where the scribes and the elders were assembled. 58 But Peter followed Him at a distance to the high priest’s courtyard. And he went in and sat with the servants **to see the end**.*

This is that time when they all left Jesus. Only Peter is still following, but ‘at a distance’.

Peter waited, seated with the servants of the high priest, to “**see the end**”.

#### **1. The end**

THE END is that part of the story when the curtain is brought over the stage and you’ve seen all that was to see. The other disciples saw no point in following Jesus any further, no need to wait for those two words “THE END” to show up on the screen: the outcome was going to be tragic, dark and one of defeat.

Peter waited and perhaps hoped for a last minute ‘twist’ to this story, maybe an unexpected happy ending. He was not going to leave before “the end” was projected on the screen.

**Verses 63-68:** *63 But Jesus kept silent. And the high priest answered and said to Him, “I put You under oath by the living God: Tell us if You are the Christ, the Son of God!” 64 Jesus said to him, “It is as you said. Nevertheless, I say to you, hereafter you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Power, and coming on the clouds of heaven.” 65 Then the high priest tore his clothes, saying, “He has spoken blasphemy! What further need do we have of witnesses? Look, now you have heard His blasphemy! 66 What do you think?” They answered and said, “He is deserving of death.” 67 Then they spat in His face and beat Him; and others struck Him with the palms of their hands, 68 saying, “Prophesy to us, Christ! Who is the one who struck You?”*

Peter now watches Jesus’ silence as he was being accused. He sees Him being humiliated, despised, without even the slightest effort of defence or retaliation.

Suddenly, even Peter who had promised to never deny Jesus was perhaps unsure, disappointed even!

#### **2. The disappointment of Peter**

**Verse 73-74** – *73 And a little later those who stood by came up and said to Peter, “Surely you also are one of them, for your speech betrays you.”*

<sup>74</sup> Then he began to <sup>l</sup>curse and swear, saying, “**I do not know the Man!**”  
Immediately a rooster crowed.

- a) The Jesus He knew was the powerful Jesus: the Jesus of the mount of transfiguration, the Jesus of miracles, the One who opened the eyes of the blind, raised the dead, expelled demons, rebuked the storms.

He did not know ‘the Man’ in this way – He seemed weak and defeated.

- b) In fact, Peter was looking at a side of Jesus he had not seen yet: the Jesus who lays his life down for His friends.

This was a display of the highest standard of love. There is no greater love than this: to lay one’s life for his friends (Joh.15:13)

When Paul wrote to the Ephesians, he spoke about this love that we need to know:

**Ephesians 3:17,18:** ... “*may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height – to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God*”.

Peter didn’t know this facet of Jesus. He didn’t know the full extent of the love of Christ: that although He was almighty and could have done anything in that situation, He chose to do nothing and say nothing, and be humiliated and eventually be crucified, because of His love for us.

**Philippians 2:5-8** <sup>5</sup>Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup>who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, <sup>7</sup>but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. <sup>8</sup>And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.

### **3. Peter leaves before the end**

**Verse 75:** *And Peter remembered the word of Jesus who had said to him, “Before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times.”* **So, he went out and wept bitterly.**

Peter went out. He had stayed because he wanted to see the end. However, he chose to leave before the end.

Peter didn’t everything about that situation. He didn’t know the ‘bonus features’ or the ‘behind the scenes’ of this story: Jesus was going to be victorious over sin, death and hell!

The end was not Gethsemane, like the other disciples thought, the end was not before Pontius Pilate, the end was not Golgotha either.

**The cross was not the end!**

**The resurrection was the final twist in the story of man's redemption. There was a happy ending after all.**

**Hebrews 12:2** says, *“for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross”* – there was a joyful twist ahead.

## II Now

**Now that Jesus is seated at the right hand of the Father, the great story of redemption continues with the Church!**

In spite of the challenges and all the fiery darts the enemy throws at us, we also need to wait for THE END.

- **Hebrews 3:6** – *“but Christ as a Son over His own house, whose house we are if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm to **the end**”*

With the current outbreak of COVID 19 people ask me, ‘is this the end’?

- **Mathew 24:6-7** – *“<sup>6</sup>And you will hear of wars and rumours of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, **but the end is not yet.** <sup>7</sup>For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places.*

**Verse 13, 14:** *“But he who endures to **the end** shall be saved. And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and **then the end will come.**”*

As a church we have a part to play.

- **1 Peter 4:7** *“But **the end** of all things is at hand; therefore, be serious and watchful in your prayers”.*

We have a part to pray!

- **1 Corinthians 15:24** – *“Then comes **the end**, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power”.*

**In the end He wins again, and we win with Him!**

THE END is great because in fact, ‘the end’ is a person: Jesus! He is the Alfa and the Omega, the beginning and **THE END!**

