

CAPITOL STUDIES

MAY 26, 2021 • WEEK 20



SEVEN DEADLY
SINS AND CIVIL
SERVANTS:
SPECIAL TOPICS

Contents

The Last Supper	2
Garden of Gethsemane	2
Peter's First Denial	3
Peter's Second Denial	4
Peter's Third Denial	5
Leaders Become Losers	6
About Capitol Studies	7



Verse of the Week

Luke 9:23-24

Jesus said to them all,
"If anyone wishes to
come after Me, he
must deny himself,
take up his cross daily,
and follow Me. For
whoever saves his life
will lose it, but who-
ever loses his life for
My sake, he is the one
who will save it."

When Leaders Become Losers



YEARS AGO, I LED A MINISTRY GROUP up a lonely mountain trail while deep in thought. Those I led had no idea of my private pain, nor did I understand it. However, I chose not to spiral downward into depression or ask (for the thousandth time), "Why Lord?" Instead, I pulled out the following anonymous poem, deciding to commit it to memory. That choice has served me well for many years. If I have quoted it once, I have quoted it a hundred times to others facing the dark night of the soul—many of those souls being leaders.

MOLD A MAN

*When God wants to build a man, and fill a man, and skill a man...
When God wants to mold a man to play the noblest part...
When God longs with all His heart to create so great and bold a man
That all the world shall stand amazed...
Then watch God's methods; watch His ways...
How God hammers him and hurts him,
And with mighty blows converts him
Into frail shapes of clay that only God understands,
While man's tortured heart is crying,
And he lifts beseeching hands.*

Rev. Perry M. Gauthier, V. D. M.

(This study is adapted from an earlier series by Rev. Gauthier, 1960–2020.)



INTRODUCTION

Leaders do not like losing, but leaders must learn to lose and must learn that their own character flaws must take them down. Today we will see Luke leading the civil leader Theophilus to understand that Satan wants—and God wills—that leaders become losers. Satan, circumstance, character weakness, and pride all cause leaders to become losers.

We end our Senate Series in Jerusalem, where Jesus chose to die. Key figures there, political and religious, surround Jesus' wrongful but intentional death. Today, in Luke 22, we will focus on a religious leader, Simon Peter, the leader of the twelve apostles. We will see that during the Last Supper, in the Garden of Gethsemane, *and even during* the initial trial of Jesus, Peter, the leader, would become a loser.

1. THE LAST SUPPER: TRUST WILLPOWER

Luke 22:31-34

Jesus said, "Simon, Simon, behold, Satan has demanded permission to sift you like wheat; ³²but I have prayed for you, that your faith may not fail; and you, when once you have turned again, strengthen your brothers." ³³But Peter said to Him, "Lord, with You I am ready to go both to prison and to death!" ³⁴And Jesus said, "I say to you, Peter, the rooster will not crow today until you have denied three times that you know Me." ¹

At the Thursday-night Last Supper, the Lord—a prophet—predicted Peter's need to fail before the very first hour of Good Friday morning. Jesus revealed His conversation with Satan, who requested that dark, cold night to peel the chaff away from the kernel of each apostle's life and winnow them like wheat. However, our apostolic trailblazer had three leadership failings at the Last Supper. Peter (1) ignored the Lord's prophetic Word, (2) ignored Satan's real power, and (3) pridefully trusted his own willpower. Just so, right then, that night, Peter, that leader, became a loser.

MOLD A MAN (continued)

When God wants to take a man, and shake a man, and wake a man;

When God wants to make a man to do His will...

Bids him struggle harder yet.

Makes him lonely, so that only

God's high messages shall reach him...

2. THE GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE: USING HIS RIGHTFUL FORCE WRONGFULLY

Luke 22:49-50

[At the seizure and arrest in the Garden,] those around Jesus, on seeing what will be, said, "Lord, shall we smite with a sword?" ⁵⁰A certain one of them did smite the slave of the high priest and took off his ear, the right. ²



Satan further tested impetuous, rash Peter's character in the Garden's arrest crisis; he also tested every other apostle there. However, the ten others humbly sought the Lord's timing and permission to use lethal force in dangerous times. Prideful Peter, the choleric leader full of testosterone, became a loser in three more ways. Note how Peter (1) rejected submission to Christ during a crisis, (2) did not seek God's timing but decided his own, and (3) used rightful force (his pre-approved³ concealed or open carrying of lethal force) in a wrong way. Impulsive Peter. Passionate Peter. So ready to act and proud of it. An alpha leader. A loser.

MOLD A MAN (continued)

*God tries to teach him what the Hierarchy planned;
And though he may not understand...
Gives him **passions** to command.*

3. JESUS' RELIGIOUS TRIALS; PETER'S 3 DENIALS: DENIAL #1: WILL YOU ALIGN WITH AN UNPOPULAR JESUS?

Luke 22:54-57

Now, having seized Jesus [in the Garden of Gethsemane], they led Him away [back to Jerusalem] and led Him into the house of the high priest. But Peter was following from afar. ⁵⁵Now, they having lit a fire in the middle of the courtyard and having sat down together, Peter was sitting in their midst. ⁵⁶But a maid, having seen him sitting before the light and having gazed intently on him, said, "This fellow also was with Him!" ⁵⁷But he denied it, saying, "I do not know him, woman!"

In the famous Luke 9:51, Jesus set His face like a flint to Jerusalem—to die for the sins of the world. He would endure an utter mockery of justice in unjust civil *and* religious trials. Peter's famous three denials happen after two trials, starting during the Annas trial (the former high priest) and ending (at the cock's crow) after the Caiaphas trial (the current high priest and Annas' son-in-law).

Jesus' Six Trials:⁴

Religious Trials

1. Before Annas (John 18:12-14)
2. Before Caiaphas (Matthew 26:57)
3. Before the Sanhedrin (Matthew 27:1-2)

Civil Trials

4. Before Pilate (John 18:28-38)
5. Before Herod Antipas (Luke 23:6-12)
6. Before Pilate Again (John 18:39-19:6)

Pilate the politico had nothing to do with instigating Jesus' arrest and His (religiously) unlawful trials; otherwise, his own police soldiers would have brought the wrist-bound Christ to the Governor's mansion. Instead, He was led into an upper-floor interrogation by Annas in his wing of the high-priestly compound. Such significant homes were multi-





level and built around a lower, quadrangular courtyard. This cold space was the actual place where Peter's cold-hearted denials occurred in the night's chilly hours in April of AD 30.⁵

After the Mount of Olives arrest, the apostles scattered, but "big man," Peter, who swore to go into prison with Jesus, followed at a "big distance," incognito. A leader became a loser. John, Jesus' best friend, had connections that got Peter and him past the sharp eyes of a tender maiden employed to guard the gated entrance to the quadrangle courtyard of Annas and Caiaphas' high-priestly mansion. John slipped inside to Jesus' hotly contested trial. Big Peter stayed out, cowering and cold. The servants and staff built a robust, charcoal, courtyard fire, adding helpful heat to their night-shift labors. Audaciously settling in the middle seat of the staff circled around the blaze, Peter's fearful face was fire-lit.

Now, the panicked doorkeeper was able to get a better look. Staring for personal reasons is rude, but she was all business. "What if she had let the wrong man through the door!? What if Peter was armed and dangerous, a passion-filled cohort of that hated Galilean rebel—Jesus?" This passage never mentions Jesus' actual name, for all the staff knew that tonight's chaos was about "Him." She crowed her conclusion to the male staff who cocked their ears, alerted by her report. Peter's sense of danger rightly rose along with his blood pressure. He denied he even knew "Him." Jesus was never less popular. Proud Peter—publicly ashamed of their prisoner.

MOLD A MAN (continued)

When God wants to... tame a man;

When God wants to shame a man to do his heavenly best...

When He tries the highest test that His reckoning may bring...

Lures and lacerates his soul, Sets a challenge for his spirit...

4. JESUS' RELIGIOUS TRIALS; PETER'S 3 DENIALS: DENIAL #2: ARE YOU ASHAMED OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD?

Luke 22:58

And after a little, another man, on seeing him, said, "Thou, too, art one of them!" But Peter said, "Man, I am not."

Those two sentences sum up Peter's second denial made after a little time had passed. Bodies warmed at the fire. Peter's hopes rose that his strategically blurted (and I think bigoted) denial would take the heat off him. He had left the fire's light and heat, though, since Matthew, Mark, and John tell us (along with other details) that Peter made his way for the gate. He wanted *out* of there, but the big-eyed gate girl and a female and male night-staff confronted Peter. The man spoke up, tagging him to Jesus through His band of disciples. In verse 32, Jesus prayed Peter would strengthen his brethren after all this satanic sifting had subsided. Oh, the embarrassment to Peter, the leader of the twelve: he was denying that he was ever even part of their company!



COULD YOU IMAGINE THE SPEAKER SAYING HE HAD NEVER BEEN A MEMBER OF THE UNICAMERAL?

Note how *Da Jesus Book* (The Hawaiian Pidgin Bible) translates the Scripture this way:

Luke Tell Bout Jesus 22:58

Bumbye one guy spock Peter an he say, “You one a dem too!” But Peter say, “No way, brah!”⁶

Dear Senator, are you ever ashamed of this “brah” or other brothers and sisters in the Body of Christ? Will you stand publicly with the followers of Jesus? Do not be a leader like Peter—ashamed in public of those of us who follow Jesus, since our culture has Him very much on trial.

MOLD A MAN (continued)

*Then to test his spirit’s wrath
Hurls a mountain in his path—
Puts the bitter choice before him
And relentlessly stands o’er him.*

5. JESUS’ RELIGIOUS TRIALS; PETER’S 3 DENIALS: DENIAL #3: WILL YOU DENY YOUR CHRISTIAN IDENTITY?

Luke 22:59-60a

And about one hour having intervened, another man began to affirm positively, saying, “Of a truth this fellow, too, was with Him, for also he is a Galilean.”⁶⁰ But Peter said, “Man, I know not what thou art saying!”

A full hour had elapsed. Back at the fire, a third interrogation heated in intensity as an entire group pressed Peter the pretender. A male spokesman and relative of the ear-sliced Malchus spoke with personal fervor as only family can. He added “proof” that Peter did indeed belong to Jesus and His gang—his Galilean clothing, northern dialect, and accent! Galileans (northerners) struggled with southern, Judean accents and gutturals (g-k-ch sounds). Pronunciations can give you away!

A NEW YAWKA WHO LOSES HUH “KHAKIS” WILL NOT BE ABLE TO DRIVE HUH “KAH”!

This third challenge made “Pastor Peter” perturbed, profane, cursing, swearing, and disavowing *everything* around which his life was centered. Eleven of the twelve were *from* Galilee. Peter met Jesus and got his new name at the *Sea* of Galilee. Yes, the Great Galilean gave Simon a *brand-new name* and a *completely new life*. Shivering in the predawn air—his spirit shriveling—Peter denied it with profane shouts, “*I—DISOWN—IT—ALL!*” That leader became a loser; *the loss was all his*.

MOLD A MAN (continued)

*When his feet are torn and bleeding...
And love and hope are burning in the presence of defeat...
Lo, the crisis! Lo, the shout that must call the leader out.*





6. PETER'S AUDIO-VISUAL LESSON: WHY ALL LEADERS MUST BECOME LOSERS

Luke 22:60b-62

And immediately, he yet speaking, there crowed a cock. ⁶¹And, on turning, the Lord looked at Peter. And Peter was reminded of the utterance of the Lord, how He said to him, ⁶²“Before a cock crows today, thou wilt deny Me thrice.” Having gone outside, he sobbed bitterly.

Some timing is coincidence; some timing is Providence. God controls every minute in every mansion in the middle of every night. A Jerusalem pre-dawn cock had crowed. Its tiny vocal cords reduced this big leader to a shuddering, shivering, bawling baby. Not the noisy *crowing* alone, it was the *looking* too. The Lord looked at Peter as He was being led out of mistrial #2. His face was contused, black and blue from the blows He wrongly received—all alone—the spittle still defiling His face. With that face, at that time, that Leader of all leaders looked at Peter, the leader whom Jesus prophesied would lose much before Good Friday's sunrise. When that sun arose, its rays hit the crosses that punctured the skull of Calvary's hilltop. In a cold pre-dawn, Peter burst into ongoing, gut-wrenching man-bawling. *Really? A leader?* Such loss—all because at the Last Supper Peter failed to *count on losing* his life:

Luke 9:23-24

Jesus said to them all, “If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, take up his cross daily, and follow Me. ²⁴For whoever saves his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake, he is the one who will save it.”¹

MOLD A MAN (continued)

How God bends but never breaks

When his good He undertakes;

How He uses whom He chooses

And with every purpose fuses him;

By every act induces him to try His splendour out—

God knows what He's about!⁷

CONCLUSION: LEADING WHILE LOSING

Most Honorable Senator: May the Spirit of God convince you through Peter's painful loss how to find great gain. May He teach you the wisdom of losing your life to find it. God does want to mold such men and women—such living leaders—to move Nebraska forward.

As I lose my life, to love, and to lead,

Rev. Perry M. Gauthier

FOOTNOTES

1. This Scripture quotation is from my own translational paraphrase, based on the *New American Standard Bible 1995 Update*, made carefully, reverently, and respectfully after diligent study work in the original Greek Scriptures.
2. All Scripture quotations for Luke 22:49-62 are from New Testament scholar R. C. H. Lenski's translation, taken from R. C. H. Lenski, *The Interpretation of St. Luke's Gospel*, Augsburg Publishing House, 1946, pg. 1080.
3. [Luke 22:38](#) – “They said, ‘Lord, look, here are two swords.’ And [Jesus] said to them, ‘It is enough.’” The dangers of the ministry were ever increasing with plots against Jesus' life.
4. John F. Walvoord and Roy B. Zuck, *The Bible Knowledge Commentary*, Victor Books, 1983, pg. 84.
5. Some scholars think it is more likely that Christ died in AD 33 rather than AD 30.
6. Wycliffe Bible Translators, *Da Jesus Book: Hawaii Pidgin New Testament*, 2011.
7. The poem “Mold a Man” has an uncertain origin. Part of it appears in J. Oswald Sanders' *Spiritual Leadership*, but an earlier, longer form is found in *Forward March* by Angela Morgan in 1918. However, Morgan's version attributes the power to “nature” instead of God, so it appears that someone may have “Christianized” it at some point. Quotations from this poem throughout this study are taken selectively, loosely, and out-of-order from the original sequence. Some quotations from this poem found in Perry's notes have been added to what Perry originally included in this study in the spirit of what he may have intended as he might have felt constrained by space.

Personal Study Notes

Verse of The Week

Luke 9:23-24

*Jesus said to them all,
“If anyone wishes to
come after Me, he
must deny himself,
take up his cross daily,
and follow Me. For
whoever saves his life
will lose it, but who-
ever loses his life for
My sake, he is the one
who will save it.”*



WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY

Meets during the 107th
Legislature's First Session

SENATORS

6:45–8:00 A.M. Wednesdays
Room 1022, *Facilitated by*
Sen. Clements & Sen. Arch

STAFF

12:00 P.M. Wednesdays
Room 1022, *Facilitated by*
Joel Hunt



www.CapitolStudies.org
info@capitolstudies.org
 /CapitolStudies



Serving Civil Servants with Scripture

*Capitol Studies™ is serving kings for
the King of kings until His glorious
return. Capitol Studies was founded
by Rev. Perry Gauthier (1960 – 2020),
who faithfully served the cause of
Christ in over 33 U.S. State Capitols,
in Washington D.C., and in multiple
capitols around the world.*

Capitol Studies Offices
4547 Calvert Street • Lincoln, NE 68506

