

Everyday FAITH Family Page

New Testament 4

Law/Gospel

God demands that I love Him and none other, solely and completely. In my sin, I worship whatever pleases me the most at the time.

God's love is everlasting and ever faithful; even though I deny Him, He forgives me and assures me of His love for Christ's sake.

Bible Words

The LORD is good; His steadfast love endures forever, and His faithfulness to all generations.

Psalm 100:5

Fun Facts

This account mentions the Sea of Tiberias. You are likely familiar with this body of water, even if you are not familiar with this name. It is also called the Sea of Galilee and the Lake of Genesaret in the Bible. Jesus spent much of His time in this area during His earthly ministry.

Jesus Appears in Galilee

John 21:1–19

On the night when Jesus was arrested and tried by the Jewish leaders, Peter three times denied that he knew Him (Matthew 26:69–75): twice to servant girls and once to some bystanders. The last time, he threw in a curse to doubly confirm his disavowal of the Master.

Peter wanted to keep his own neck out of the noose, or rather, his own hands and feet far away from Roman spikes. However, a few hours before, when Christ had predicted the betrayal, the would-be hero exclaimed, "Even if I must die with You, I will not deny You!" (Matthew 26:35). But now, loving self more than God, Peter folded under pressure.

How is Christ, now alive once more, to deal with the one who denied Him? That Peter regretted his renouncement of Jesus was evident immediately after he heard the rooster crow, for "he went out and wept bitterly" (Matthew 26:75).

But Judas, who betrayed Jesus, was also seized with remorse (27:3–4), was he not? Judas, however, despaired to the point of committing self-murder. Peter not only felt sorrow over his sin, but he also believed that the Lord would forgive him. Love, especially the love of Jesus, keeps no record of wrongs, so Peter, though full of remorse, also had faith in the absolution of the very One he had denied.

Prayer

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

Luther's Morning Prayer

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