A black and white photograph of a hand holding a crown of thorns. A single nail is visible, having been driven through one of the thorns. The background is dark and textured.

**DISQUALIFYING
DENIAL**

Luke 22
pages
881-883

**INSTEAD
OF ME**

developing missionaries who
share the love of Christ
with our community & beyond

Beyond These Walls

Please pray for Bridgette and Chris Mustaine of a Young Life program in Michigan, that they will reach the young people they work with, and those teenagers will open their hearts to Jesus.

Quarterly Business Meeting

The FBC quarterly business meeting is TODAY at noon in the Worship Center.

Next Steps Luncheon

Do you want to know more about FBC's core values, beliefs and mission? Are you ready to take the next step to membership? Join us Sunday, April 15 and we will answer your questions about the heart of FBC Palmetto. Lunch will be provided and childcare is available with advanced registration. Please call the church office to RSVP at 941-722-7795.

Worship Center Update

Although the area where the new Welcome Center will be seems quiet, there are a number of things happening behind the scenes and below the surface. This past week, a directional drill was completed under 11th Avenue to connect our existing and future irrigation system to the city's reclaimed water service. Next week, a crew will be onsite to run a new supply line along 11th Avenue for the Welcome Center fire sprinkler system. Please continue to be in prayer for the safety of the workers and the progress of the plan.

SERVE Saturday

Mark your calendars and get ready for the next SERVE Saturday, April 28.

SonShiners Luncheon

The next SonShiners Luncheon is on Tuesday, March 20 at 10:30 am. George Volpe will share experiences from his trip to Israel. Tickets are on sale for \$5 in the Rotunda after each worship service.

Parents Night Out

Palmetto Kids is providing a Parents Night Out for kids ages 2 years-5th grade on Friday, April 20 from 6-9 pm. Children will enjoy pizza, chips, cookies and a drink while watching a movie in the gym. RSVP is required by Wednesday, April 18. Contact Lynne Mikulec at 941-722-0810 or email her at Lmikulec@fbcpalmetto.com.

Easter Sunday Services-April 1

8:00 am Celebration Service
9:15 am Celebration Service
9:15 am Encounter Service
9:15 am Kids Worship
10:45 am Celebration Service
10:45 am Encounter Service
10:45 am Kids Worship

(There will be no adult or youth Sunday School)

Seasonal Parking

We'd like to encourage those who are physically able to park in areas a little further from the church to allow our first time visitors the opportunity to park near the church. Public parking is available in the highlighted areas.



Discussion Questions

- Why are we paralyzed by failure?

- In verse 32 Jesus says He has prayed for Peter. Read [Romans 8:34](#) and [Revelation 12:10](#). What are the implications in your life knowing that Satan accuses you daily but Jesus talks to the Father on your behalf?

- What types of accusations could Satan possible bring against you? How do you believe Jesus would respond as He intercedes on your behalf?

- The instant Peter denied Jesus the third time, he heard the rooster crow and saw Jesus looking right into his eyes from across the courtyard. How would you have felt if you were Peter at that very moment?

- What did Jesus do after the resurrection to show grace to Peter? (Read [Mark 16:7](#) and [John 21:15-17](#).)

- What would have likely happened if Jesus had not singled out Peter for grace? How do we normally respond to massive failure in our life?

2018 Bible Reading Plan

One Year Bible Reading Plan:

WEEK 12

Day 56

[Luke 16:1-17:6](#)

[Ps 48](#)

Day 57

[Luke 17:7-37](#)

[Ps 49:1-7](#)

Day 58

[Luke 18](#)

[Ps 49:8-20](#)

Day 59

[Luke 19](#)

[Ps 50:1-9](#)

Day 60

[Genesis 37](#)

[Ps 50:10-23](#)

Monday - Failing Forward

By Kel Cunard

"But he denied it, saying, 'Woman, I do not know him.'" Luke 22:57

I grew up in North Carolina, a state where basketball is king, especially college basketball. Within two hours of our house was Wake Forest, North Carolina State, Duke and the University of North Carolina. I watched all the games, loved the competition and dreamed of being a part of it all.

Nailed to a tree in our backyard was a rough and makeshift backboard with a slightly crooked rim. It was not much to look at, but I can't even count the number of imagined last second shots I took on the dusty, dirt court – especially after the spring of 1982.

That year, the North Carolina Tarheels, under Head Coach Dean Smith, played in the championship game against the University of Georgetown. It was an exciting, back-and-forth game with neither team being able to pull away. But with just seconds to go, the game-winning shot was taken by a skinny freshman by the name of Michael Jordan.

That night was Jordan's first win in the national spotlight, but it was far from his last. Number 23 went on to win virtually everything: 14-time All-Star, five-time league MVP, and six NBA championships. He is arguably the best player in the history of the sport, but he gives credit for his success to an unlikely source.

I've missed more than 9,000 shots in my career. I've lost almost 300 games. Twenty-six times, I've been trusted to take the game winning shot and missed. I've failed over and over and over again in my life. And that is why I succeed.

If at first you don't succeed, try, try again. It's an idiom we all know, but most of us struggle to follow its advice. We marvel at those who climb over the rubble of failure to reach the pinnacle of success, but most people tend to allow their past mistakes to derail their future victories. And Christians are not immune from this mistake.

Two thousand years ago, an unknown fisherman failed royally. While His leader and friend was on trial for His life, Peter denied even knowing Him – three times! Read [Luke 22:31-62](#). Surely such a monumental failure would destroy any opportunity for future usefulness in God's Kingdom. But the highs and lows of Peter's life remind us of a powerful truth: God's grace is always greater than our failures.

There is nothing in your past that Christ cannot forgive, and the One who holds your future is never hindered by your former failures. Just as you can trust Christ to save you from your sins and secure your eternity, you can count on Him to use even your worst failures to make Himself known.

Tuesday - No Defense

By Cathy Slusser

"But make up your mind not to worry beforehand how you will defend yourselves." Luke 21:14

I clearly remember the first time I deliberately lied. While I know that I was not a perfect child and probably lied many times before, this was the first time I planned to lie and did so even though I knew it was wrong. I was in fifth grade, and it was the first day of safety patrol training.

I was excited about being a safety patrol, but I forgot training began on that Monday. I remembered during my walk to school with about twenty minutes to fret over my mistake. Then, I recalled that on the past weekend we "sprang ahead" into daylight savings time. When I arrived on time for class, but late for training, the sixth grade captains were waiting for me. Confronted, I told them that my family forgot to set our clocks ahead and that was why I was late. If they knew that we practically lived at church and therefore would have been late to everything the day before, they didn't let on.

Even fifty years later, I still feel guilty about that lie and have thought about it many times. Why didn't I just admit that I forgot? Why was I willing to lie and risk being caught? Fear? Self preservation? Pride? I think those reasons also applied to Peter when he was confronted on the night before Jesus' crucifixion.

It is easy to forget everything you hold dear when pressed against a wall figuratively or literally. We might be inclined to vilify Peter, and think, "what a coward," "what a fake," "he BETRAYED Jesus, never mind that He was the Savior, they were friends, for heaven's sake." Peter's sin might be more obvious because of his boasting, but if we were in Peter's place, how many of us would do the same thing? How many of us would lie to protect ourselves even if it is from a bunch of twelve-year-olds wearing orange plastic belts?

Denial is simply the act of proclaiming something we know to be true is a lie. While we might not think we are capable of denying Jesus, every time we worry, we proclaim He is not sovereign. Every time we act in our own knowledge or will, we deny He is wise and loving. Every time we fail to obey, we deny He is Lord. Peter is not the only one who denied Jesus.

Read Luke 21:10-19. Do you think Peter was paying attention during this sermon by Jesus? How do Jesus' words apply to your life? Will you be bold in your thoughts, words and actions to trust Him to care for you when your life shows that you are a Christ-follower? Why or why not?

Wednesday - Do You Love Me?

By Kel Cunard

"Jesus said to Simon Peter... 'Do you love me more than these?'" John 21:15

On the night before Jesus died, He reminded the disciples of His imminent suffering and death. He then said, "You will all fall away because of me this night." Peter answered, "Even if they all fall away... I never will." Jesus looked him in the eye and said, "I tell you, Peter, tonight before the rooster crows, you will deny three times that you even know me." Never known to lack confidence, Simon Peter replied, "Even if I have to die with you, I will never disown you."

A few hours later, Peter found himself standing in the courtyard of the high priest's home as Jesus stood trial before the religious leaders. A servant girl recognized he was a follower of Jesus, but he denied it: "Woman, I don't know him." A little later someone else said he was a disciple, but Peter insisted, "I don't know the man!" A third time, a few standing nearby heard his Galilean accent and said, "Surely you are one of them." Calling down curses he declared, "I don't know this man you're talking about!" Immediately, a rooster crowed, and Peter ran away weeping bitterly.

As Jesus died on the cross, Peter was nowhere to be seen. When the news came that the tomb was empty, he was still in hiding. His heart and mind must have been dominated by the desire for a do-over. If he could only have that night back, he would not make the same mistake again. What he wouldn't give for a second chance!

Jesus appeared to the disciples several times after His resurrection; one time to seven of them on the shore of the Sea of Galilee. After they had eaten breakfast, Jesus turned His attention to Peter. *Read [John 21:15-19](#).*

There was more going on than meets the eye in this seemingly repetitive conversation. The original Greek text uses two different words for love: *agape* (unconditional love) and *phileo* (brotherly love). Jesus asked Peter twice, "Do you love me unconditionally? Do you *agape* me?" Peter responded both times, "You know I only love you like a brother. You know that I *phileo* you." Then Jesus asked, "Do you *phileo* me?" Peter was grieved in his heart and said, "You know everything, and you know that I only *phileo* you." Jesus was asking Peter, "Will you follow me to the very end?" Peter's replies seemed to say, "You and I both know, I'll only follow you until it gets uncomfortable."

Second chances often begin with honest moments. Peter's big talking and bold predictions were now gone. His responses were an admission that there were limits to his love for Jesus. He recognized through his failure in the courtyard that he was not yet the man he needed to be, and that was right where Jesus wanted him to be. Only after Peter was ready to stop pretending and be honest about his heart was he truly ready to follow Jesus.

You don't need to pretend with Jesus. He is prepared to offer you a second chance. He just might be waiting for you to honestly answer His question: "Do you love me unconditionally?"

Thursday - I Love You Peter

By George Volpe

*"This man also was with him." But he denied it, saying,
"Woman, I do not know him." Luke 22:56-57*

Peter—the strong one. A commercial fisherman hardened by the rigors of his livelihood. So often we find him speaking first and the others agreeing after him. He is a leader. Peter truly believes that Jesus is the Messiah. He is willing to give up his career to follow Christ. When Jesus speaks, Peter cannot help but listen and agree. He is drawn to Jesus like nothing else. With Jesus he has seen things that have left him speechless. His life is affected in a way that speaks to the depths of his soul, and he is content with Jesus.

For three years Peter watches Jesus make such an incredible impact on the world that he expects this wave of power and rejoicing to continue. No one can withstand the power and grace of Jesus. No one can stump Him, usurp Him, or silence Him. The authority and power of Jesus is a brilliance beyond what anyone can imagine.

And yet, Jesus keeps saying He is going to die, and Peter feels ready to defend Christ to the death. I think he really means it. Peter loves Jesus. He's given up his life for Christ's message. And on that awful night he finds his Savior in the hands of wicked men, quietly submitting to their obviously unjust wishes. It cannot be. Why doesn't Jesus put an end to these terrible events? Peter lashes out in passion with his blade, and Christ once again pours love over hatred while He is being unjustly accused and arrested in the garden.

The events that unfold in the next few hours of Peter's life tear his soul apart and leave him feeling alone. All of the strength, the words, the desires, the concerns for the future are stripped away. All of the things Peter was mixing with the message of Christ are all falling apart. In shock and fear, anxiety and confusion, his heart runs away from the one He loves, and he denies that he knows Jesus. He has reached the end of himself. Now the man of such strength cannot stop the tears, as he feels like he has lost everything.

Jesus could have prevented the sifting of Peter, but He was strengthening and transforming Peter for the ministry that lie ahead. Peter learned to "be sober, be vigilant" and to pray even when the flesh is weak. ([1 Peter 5:8](#)) Peter became a "pillar" of the church. ([Galatians 2:9](#)) He left for us the words of the epistles that God ordained for all generations. God's amazing grace strengthens and prepares each of us for His work in ways we may never understand until we step into glory.

Friday - A New Peter

By Kel Cunard

*"His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness."
2 Peter 1:3*

Second chances change everything. Peter benefitted from a second chance that was more like his third or even thirtieth one. He had stumbled and repeatedly fallen during his three years serving alongside Jesus, but once he was honest about the condition of his heart and empowered by the presence of the Holy Spirit, his life was forever transformed. Once Peter clearly saw Jesus, it radically changed how he saw everything else.

He not only preached boldly on the day of Pentecost, but he also went on to be one of the most outspoken leaders of the early Church. When he was asked by a lame beggar at the temple gates for some money, Peter looked intently at the man and said, "I have no silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk!" ([Acts 3:1-11](#)) In spite of his past failures, Peter did not deny the power of the name he once denied. He was an entirely new Peter.

Since he had seen the empty tomb, he believed God even had power over death. When he was asked to intercede following the death of a faithful disciple named Dorcas, Peter turned to her dead body and confidently commanded her to arise. ([Acts 9:36-43](#)). The power of Jesus was so at work in his heart and life the sick were healed simply by his shadow passing over them. ([Acts 5:15](#))

The Lord even used Peter's past failures to give authority to his writing. *Read part of his letter to the early Church in [2 Peter 1:1-15](#)*. When Peter said the Lord has granted everything we need to live godly lives, he meant it because he had lived it. When he wrote about being a "partaker of the divine nature" he was not referring to a theoretical idea. He knew God had made His home in him ([John 14:23](#)). He had experienced the radical reset of surrendering his heart and life to Jesus.

Have you taken Jesus up on the second chance He offers? You may be in need of a third or even thirtieth chance, but He is still offering. When Peter saw Jesus clearly, nothing was ever the same – including himself. Are you tired of trying to fix you? Do you believe that because of your faith in Christ your past mistakes do not disqualify you from future service? If so, then who needs to hear about the newness you have in Jesus?

Weekend - Justice

By Kel Cunard

“And when they came to the place that is called The Skull, there they crucified him.” Luke 23:33

We are wired for justice. To a person, we are pleased when the guilty are punished, and we are relieved with the innocent are set free. This is not just an accident of evolution. I believe this desire for right to triumph was placed in us by the One who made us so that our hearts would desire His righteousness. This innate wiring makes God’s redemptive plan seem all the more unexpected.

History’s only totally innocent man was falsely convicted by the very people He came to save. Jesus endured their abuse so the utterly guilty throughout history could be declared innocent through Him. This unjust reversal is a picture of God’s grace and the only route through which sinful humans can be right with a holy God.

As we reflect on that blessed hope, we must remember that the promise of Easter is on the other side of the horror of the cross. The wages of my sin is death, but the sinless Christ paid the price *Instead of Me*. Read [Luke 23](#) and join us this weekend as we reflect on the sacrifice of Jesus for our salvation.

Prepare for Worship

As you prepare your heart for worship on Sunday morning read [Psalm 91](#) and thank the Lord that you can say, “My refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust.”

Pray for the World: Brazil

Brazil boasts one-half of the land surface and population of South America where 91% profess to be Christian. Catholics in Brazil number more than in any other country, but the Church itself remains in crisis.

The emergence of evangelicals in Brazil has been dramatic. Despite the growth – 2.9% in 1960, 26.3% in 2010 – there are many prayer needs: **a) Numerical rather than spiritual growth** is the emphasis of too many groups, to the point of dishonest inflation of numbers and disregard for discipleship. **b) Prosperity theology** has shaped much, with those on top of the pyramid enjoying financial and celebrity status and lifestyle while millions of poor hold out for a miracle of healing or financial blessing. Pray for a balance between expectation of blessing and daily sanctification. **c) Leadership models are sorely lacking**, as witnessed by the scandals and moral failures of some high-profile leaders characterized more by their wealth, power and lack of accountability than their humility and faithfulness.

(www.operationworld.org)

Phillip Hamm
Senior
Pastor

Scott Perkins
Music &
Worship

Kel Cunard
Executive &
Education

Todd Poppell
Connections
& Students

Nic Bishop
Encounter Worship
& Creative Arts

Deacons of the Week:

Stephen Rogalin & Phil Setsma

This Week:

Sunday, March 18

12:00 pm Quarterly Business Meeting

6:00 pm Easter Worship Concert

Tuesday, Mar 20

10:30 am SonShiners Luncheon

Wednesday, Mar 21

5:00 pm Family Supper: Baked Chicken

6:00 pm AWANA

Upcoming Events:

Mar 26-30: Spring Break

Mar 28: No supper, prayer meeting,
children or student events

Mar 30: Good Friday/Campus Closed

Apr 1: Easter

Apr 3: Deacons Meeting

Apr 4: Carpenters for Christ Meeting

Apr 11: GO Team Meeting

Apr 13: WEE World Spring Sing

Apr 15: Next Steps Luncheon

Children's Volunteers

Week 4: March 25

Preschool Worship: Cassandra Campbell, Bo & Toni Dunaway (e), Miranda Gentle (e), Adria Henslick (e), Judy Kellar, Aimee McClellan, Aaron & Lacey Knoll (o), Richard & Alana McClough (o), Cliff & Brooke McDerment (o), Anna Pavon, Di VanderNoord, Erin Williams (e)

Bed Babies: Alice McClary, Cheryl Setsma, Roberta Taylor, Patty Thomas

Kid's Worship: Sadie & Mark Palmer

Weekly at FBC

Sundays:

8:00 am Bible Studies

8:30 am Worship Rehearsal

9:00 am Coffee Fellowship in F.H.

9:15 am Celebration Service

9:15 am Encounter Service

9:15 am Bible Studies

10:45 am Celebration Service

10:45 am Bible Studies

10:45 am Preschool Worship (3 & 4 yrs)

10:45 am Kids Worship (K-5)

6:00 pm High School Youth

Monday-Friday:

7:30 am WEE World

8:30 am Church Office

2:30 pm King's Kids

Wednesdays:

3:00 pm Puppet Rehearsal

5:00 pm Family Supper

6:00 pm Prayer Meeting

6:00 pm AWANA Clubs

6:00 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal

6:15 pm Middle School Youth

7:00 pm Orchestra Rehearsal

Thursdays:

6:30 pm Encounter Band Rehearsal


encounter
service

Sundays at
9:15 am

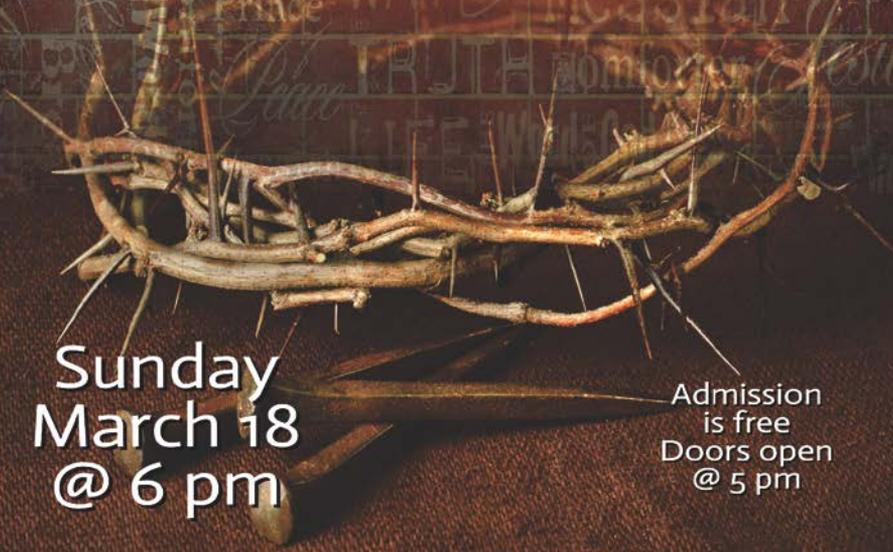

celebration
service

Sundays at
9:15 & 10:45 am

First Baptist Church of Palmetto Presents:

A worship concert filled with
dynamic & inspiring music
featuring our 90 voice choir
& 25 member orchestra

Jesus Is



Sunday
March 18
@ 6 pm

Admission
is free
Doors open
@ 5 pm