



## Momentary Fear Leads To Permanent Regret

### MAIN THING

The Time To Fix The Roof Is When The Sun Is Shining; It's Too Late Once It Starts To Rain

### SCRIPTURE

Luke 22:31-34, Luke 22:54-62, Luke 14:25-27, John 11:5-8, Luke 14:28-30

### ICEBREAKER

One piece of advice I would tell someone ten years younger than me is . . . .

### OPENING THOUGHT

“Be prepared.” That was the boy scout motto millions of young men were taught. The apostle Peter’s greatest failure in life was his denial of Jesus. Peter wasn’t an evil person. He wasn’t a coward. In fact, Jesus stated that Peter was the rock upon which He would build His church. His denial of Jesus had nothing to do with his character or faith or love for Jesus. It had to do with his lack of preparation for the situation. When we enter into a situation where our faith will be tested and we aren’t prepared, we are vulnerable to panic and/or bad decisions that we will regret. The time to decide what you will do when your faith is tested is NOW. If you wait until the moment of testing, you are likely to falter like Peter did. The time to fix the roof is when the sun is shining. The time to decide what you will do under threat or persecution is before that threat or persecution presents itself.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What was the one thing that you heard this past Sunday that stuck out to you? Why did it resonate with you like it did?
2. Point #1 in the sermon: What do you believe is worth sacrificing for?
3. Point #2 in the sermon: What actions will you take when a belief of yours is tested?
4. Point #3 in the sermon: What consequences are you willing to accept?

### LIFE APPLICATION

One of the troubling things about the church in America is that we have had it so good that we don’t think in terms of pre-decision and preparation. This is why Christian students are speechless in schools when their faith is challenged by a teacher or professor- they are not prepared. That’s why we fail to speak up when our beliefs are challenged by loud people in the media or in positions of power- we aren’t prepared. We haven’t decided what is worth sacrificing for, what actions we are prepared to take, or what consequences we are willing to accept. And in the moment it happens, it’s too late. For the church to be strong, it must be full of people who are prepared with answers to those three questions. What decisions have you made THIS WEEK that are different where you were last week?

### CHALLENGE

The same man who denied Jesus in a moment of fear wrote the following words, “Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.” (1 Peter 3:15) He learned his lesson. He always looked back at his denial of Jesus as his greatest failure in life, but it was also the time where he received the most grace. His message to the church was, “Do better than I did. Be prepared.” How can we as a group “do better than Peter” in being prepared for what is in store?