

Luke 22:62

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Peter went out, and wept bitterly.

Analysis

And Peter went out, and wept bitterly. Peter's response to Jesus' look is immediate and total: *exelthōn exō eklasen pikrōs* (ἐξελθὼν ἔξω ἔκλαυσεν πικρῶς, 'having gone out outside, he wept bitterly'). The double emphasis *exelthōn exō* (going out, outside) suggests urgency—Peter fled the courtyard, seeking solitude. The verb *klaīō* (κλαίω) means to wail, lament audibly, not silent tears. The adverb *pikrōs* (πικρῶς, 'bitterly') intensifies the grief—not mere emotion but anguished contrition. This is *metanoia* (μετάνοια, repentance), godly sorrow producing transformation (2 Corinthians 7:10).

Peter's tears contrast with Judas' remorse (Matthew 27:3-5). Both betrayed Christ; both felt guilt. But Peter's sorrow led to restoration, Judas' to suicide. The difference? Peter remembered Jesus' words and believed Jesus' grace. Judas saw only his sin and lost hope. Peter wept over breaking Christ's heart; Judas despaired over breaking his own life. Peter's tears watered seeds of future faithfulness—the same mouth that denied Christ would preach Pentecost (Acts 2), confront Sanhedrin (Acts 4), and write epistles urging steadfastness (1-2 Peter).

Historical Context

Peter's bitter weeping likely occurred in the early morning hours, perhaps in the same garden where Jesus prayed. Luke's Gospel, based partly on Peter's testimony to Mark (according to church tradition), includes this detail as Peter's own testimony to his failure and Christ's forgiveness. Within weeks, Peter transformed from denier to bold proclaimer—a change only Spirit-empowerment explains (Acts

2:14-41). His failure became credential: he knew grace personally, deeply, completely. His epistles emphasize humility, watchfulness against Satan (1 Peter 5:8), and hope despite failure.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. What distinguishes Peter's 'bitter weeping' from Judas' remorse—both failed, but with different outcomes?
2. How does true repentance differ from worldly regret or shame?
3. What does Peter's restoration from denial to bold apostle teach about God's redemptive power?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	ἐξελθὼν	ἔξω	ὁ	Πέτρος	ἔκλαυσεν	πικρῶς
And	went	out	G3588	Peter	and wept	bitterly
G2532	G1831	G1854		G4074	G2799	G4090

Additional Cross-References

1 Corinthians 10:12 (Parallel theme): Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.

Matthew 26:75 (References Peter): And Peter remembered the word of Jesus, which said unto him, Before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice. And he went out, and wept bitterly.