

# FAILURE AND FAITH

*Lectio Divina Guides by Bill Gaultiere*

## Lectio Divina Process

Hearing God's voice with confidence takes practice. A great way to learn is through Lectio Divina, a method of Scripture meditation developed by Benedict in the sixth century. Three times we read the Bible passage and then pray or journal quietly for a few minutes to help us listen to the Spirit. Each reading is guided by a focus question listed below. In a group context follow the leader's instructions to know when you can share your responses. Be sure to protect people's confidentiality.

## Introduction to the Text

At any minute the disciples are expecting Jesus, the Messiah and Son of God, to show his physical power and brilliance by overthrowing the rule of the Romans and the Jewish religious leaders. They're excited for him to establish himself as political king and they are jockeying for the best leadership positions in his government. But Jesus corrects them, teaching them about the spiritual nature of the Father-Son kingdom and following his example of servant leadership. As the elder disciple, Peter is especially full of bravado and so Jesus warns him. Notice that Jesus doesn't pray for Peter not to fail, but that his faith (trust and confidence in God) won't fail, as evidenced by him returning back to his service as Christ's lead apostle.

## Luke 22

24 A dispute also arose among them as to which of them was considered to be greatest. 25 Jesus said to them, "The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those who exercise authority over them call themselves Benefactors. 26 But you are not to be like that. Instead, the greatest among you should be like the youngest, and the one who rules like the one who serves. 27 For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one who is at the table? But I am among you as one who serves. 28 You are those who have stood by me in my trials. 29 And I confer on you a kingdom, just as my Father conferred one on me, 30 so that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom and sit on thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

31 "Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift all of you as wheat. 32 But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers."

33 But he replied, "Lord, I am ready to go with you to prison and to death."

34 Jesus answered, "I tell you, Peter, before the rooster crows today, you will deny three times that you know me" (NIV).

## Prayer / Journaling / Soul Talk Prompts

1. What is one word or phrase the Holy Spirit impresses on you? In silence meditate on that.
2. What do you feel? What specific situation in your life today relates? Write down a prayer or pray quietly.
3. What is God's personal invitation to you from the Scripture? You can write down what the Lord may be saying to you or a prayer of thanks. Or simply rest quietly in the Spirit's presence.