



---

## Steps to the Cross #3: Jesus is Abandoned

March 7 & 8, 2026

John 18:12-27

### Opener:

When have you been let down by someone or something you really trusted?  
What did that experience do to your ability to trust?

### Go Deeper: *(Exploring the Bible)*

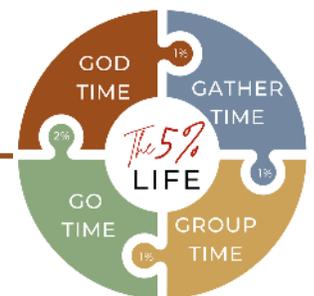
1. **Read John 18:12–14, 19–24.** In one night, the religious institution, the legal system, and Peter all fail Jesus. What does this tell us about human loyalty?
  2. **Read Psalm 17:1–2, 7.** What does it look like to entrust your case to God when human systems fail you?
  3. **Read Genesis 1:26–27, Deuteronomy 7:6, and 1 Peter 2:9.** How does God describe your worth and value? What does it mean that despite this, we continually turn away from Him?
  4. **Read Lamentations 3:19–23.** What is the significance of the word "yet" in verse 21? How does Jeremiah hold grief and hope at the same time?
  5. **Read Romans 8:35–39.** How does the resurrection prove that the Father's hesed — His steadfast, covenant love — actually held for Jesus? How does that promise extend to us?
-

**Live It:** (Applying to Daily Life)

1. Which layer of Jesus's abandonment — the institution, the system, or the closest friend — most mirrors something you have personally experienced?
2. Peter followed Jesus to the courtyard but warmed himself at the wrong fire. Where in your own life are you close to Jesus in routine but keeping a safe distance when it costs something?
3. God has been let down by His people since Genesis 3 — and the *hesed* held every time. How does knowing God understands that pain change the way you bring your wounds to Him?
4. Jeremiah chose to call something true to mind in the middle of the rubble. What do you need to deliberately "call to mind" about God this week in the middle of something hard?
5. Jesus restored Peter at the same charcoal fire where the denial happened. Where do you need Jesus to meet you — not to condemn, but to restore?



**GOD TIME:**



**Daily Bible Readings (March 8-14)**

Sun:	John 18:12–27	Jesus Arrested, Bound, Denied
Mon:	Psalms 17:1–15	Entrusting Yourself to God
Tues:	Genesis 1:26–31	Made in the Image of God
Wed:	Deuteronomy 7:6–9	His Treasured Possession
Thurs:	Lamentations 3:19–33	Yet This I Call to Mind
Fri:	Romans 8:31–39	Nothing Can Separate Us
Sat:	John 21:15–19	Restored by the Same Fire