



**Message Seven**  
**Will You Not Walk Away?**  
***Pastor Mike Chapman***

In Luke 22:31-34, we read...

*"Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to test all of you as a farmer sifts his wheat. I have prayed that you will not lose your faith! Help your brothers be stronger when you come back to me." But Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, I am ready to go with you to prison and even to die with you!" But Jesus said, "Peter, before the rooster crows this day, you will say three times that you don't know me." (NCV)*

In a crucial moment of testing, Peter walked away. This is today's simple question, "Will you not walk away?"

**WHY PEOPLE WALK AWAY**

Some walk away because of disappointment.

Some become disappointed with **themselves**.

Psalm 32:1-4, *How happy you must be— you get a fresh start, your slate's wiped clean...God holds nothing against you and you're holding nothing back from him. When I kept it all inside, my bones turned to powder, my words became daylong groans. The pressure never let up; all the juices of my life dried up. (Msg)*

Some become disappointed with **others**.

2 Timothy 4:9-18, *Come to see me as soon as you can. Demas loves the things of this world so much that he left me and went to Thessalonica. Crescens has gone to Galatia, and Titus has gone to Dalmatia. Only Luke has stayed with me...When you come, bring the coat I left at Troas...Don't forget to bring the scrolls, especially the ones made of leather. Alexander, the metalworker, has hurt me in many ways...Alexander opposes what we preach. You had better watch out for him. When I was first put on trial, no one helped me. In fact, everyone deserted me. I hope it won't be held against them. But the Lord stood beside me. He gave me the strength to tell his full message, so that all Gentiles would hear it...The Lord will always keep me from being harmed by evil, and he will bring me safely into his heavenly kingdom. Praise him forever and ever! Amen. (CEV)*

Some are disappointed with **God**.

John 6:66-68, *From this time many of his disciples turned back and no longer followed him. "You do*

*not want to leave too, do you?" Jesus asked the Twelve. Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life." (NIV)*

Some walk away because of the deadly drift.

*Revelations 2:4, But I do have something against you! And it is this: You don't have as much love as you used to. (CEV)*

Some walk away because of distraction.

*1 John 2:15-16, Don't love the world's ways. Don't love the world's goods. Love of the world squeezes out love for the Father. Practically everything that goes on in the world—wanting your own way, wanting everything for yourself, wanting to appear important—has nothing to do with the Father. It just isolates you from him. (Msg)*

## HOW TO FINISH THE RACE

*Hebrews 10:39, But we are not those who turn back and are lost. We are people who have faith and are saved. (NCV)*

*Hebrews 12:1-3, We are surrounded by a great cloud of people whose lives tell us what faith means. So let us run the race that is before us and never give up. We should remove from our lives anything that would get in the way and the sin that so easily holds us back. Let us look only to Jesus, the One who began our faith and who makes it perfect. He suffered death on the cross. But he accepted the*

*shame as if it were nothing because of the joy that God put before him. And now he is sitting at the right side of God's throne. Think about Jesus' example. He held on while wicked people were doing evil things to him. So do not get tired and stop trying. (NCV)*

1. Be encouraged by those **in the stadium**.
2. Be aware of what slows you down and trips you up and **deal with it**.
3. Keep your eye on your **coach** and follow his lead.