

Series: I Wish I'd Asked That; *Sermon:* **“Why do some Christian leaders mess up?”**
Delivered on March 3, 2019, by **Dr. Josh Moody**, senior pastor

Bible text explored: John 13:36–14:4

13³⁶Simon Peter said to him, “Lord, where are you going?” Jesus answered him, “Where I am going you cannot follow me now, but you will follow afterward.” ³⁷Peter said to him, “Lord, why can I not follow you now? I will lay down my life for you.” ³⁸Jesus answered, “Will you lay down your life for me? Truly, truly, I say to you, the rooster will not crow till you have denied me three times.

14¹“Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. ²In my Father’s house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. ⁴And you know the way to where I am going.” [ESV]

Review and application:

1. What had raised the anxiety level of the disciples committed to following Jesus? (See *John 12:23* and *13:21-22, 31-33*.)
2. What internal pressures do I sense in my own life?
To what external criticisms do I feel vulnerable?
What may be a source of spiritual pressure I face? (See *Luke 22:31*.)
3. When pressures mount, why may a nap-and-snack response be appropriate? (See *1 Kings 19:1-9*.)
4. Spiritual leaders succumbing to temptation may feel like a recent blight. But how has Scripture accurately portrayed this tendency? (See, for example, Moses [*Exod. 2:11-12*] and David [*2 Sam. 11*].)
5. Hudson Taylor’s response to any leadership failure in early missionary efforts in China was, “When did he stop having his quiet time?” Why must spending time in prayer and the Bible be our primary focus in combating defeat in the lives of our leaders and of ourselves? (See *Josh. 1:8*.)
6. Except for ability to teach and preach (*1 Tim. 5:17*), the qualifications for church leaders (spelled out in *1 Tim. 3* and *Titus 1*) are all character traits. What is the special danger for the church when its leaders fail? (See *Matt. 26:31*.)
7. Peter’s question to Jesus (*13:36*) expressed the bewilderment of all the disciples. But what did the energy and enthusiasm of his follow-through question (vv. 37-38) fail to comprehend . . .
. . . about his own ability to “save the day”?
. . . about the unique role of Jesus as the world’s only Savior?
Jesus told them (in 4:1-4) that trusting him as the divine Son of the heavenly Father would resolve their anxieties.
8. How would that trust yield assurance about . . .
. . . why he was going away?
. . . whether he was coming back?
. . . what would be their own ultimate destination?

9. Instead of focusing on establishing a human legacy, why should we concentrate on the heavenly reward that awaits us?

What steps could I take to build what Richard Baxter called *The Saint's Everlasting Rest* into my day-by-day awareness?

10. Jesus told Peter that, while he could not follow him then, he would later. How was this forecast fulfilled? (See *John 21:15-19*.)