

## Mark 16:7

**Introduction:** Have you ever heard the phrase “breaking a horse?” It sounds like a really cruel thing. However, breaking a horse is simply getting the horse to where it trusts you and your trust it. Breaking a horse is a perfect illustration of what God does to us. What if I told you that you had to be broken before you could be used by God? You need to get to the point that you completely trust God, but God must also get you to the place where He can trust that you are going to lean on Him for everything. This morning we are going to look at what that looks like in the life of one of Jesus’ disciples.

### **Breakdown of the Text:**

**V. 7:** This text occurs on Resurrection Sunday morning. The message is given to the ladies who had gone to the tomb expecting to anoint Jesus’ body. I want us to notice what Mark records. Mark records, “But go your way, tell His disciples and Peter.” Peter is singled out. Mark is the only Gospel writer to record that fact. Why single out Peter? If we go to Matthew 26 we are going to learn two things about Peter leading up to the crucifixion. The events recorded in the latter part of Matthew 26 occur on Thursday night which is just hours before Jesus’ arrest, trials, and ultimately His crucifixion. Matthew 26:31-35 says, “Then saith Jesus unto them, All ye shall be offended because of me this night: for it is written, I will smite the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock shall be scattered abroad. But after I am risen again, I will go before you into Galilee. Peter answered and said unto him, Though all *men* shall be offended because of thee, *yet* will I never be offended. Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, That this night, before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice. Peter said unto him, Though I should die with thee, yet will I not deny thee. Likewise also said all the disciples.” Notice Jesus said that they would all be offended because of Him that night. However we see some pride in Peter by his response. His response is sort of like, “I don’t know about these other guys but I won’t do it.” I think there are a lot of times that we as Christians feel like Peter. We say things like, “I don’t understand how the people of Jesus’ day didn’t believe in Him. He performed all those miracles in front of them, He fulfilled those prophecies, what was wrong

with them?" Truth be told though we are doing what is known as "Monday morning quarterbacking." It is easy to sit back now after all of it happened and see the truth, but remember they didn't have that benefit they were living what we are reading about. Hindsight is always 20/20. I want to challenge us not to be prideful in judging the people of Jesus' time or those of today who haven't come to faith in Christ, lest we forget that at one time we were just like them. The truth was right in front of us and we rejected it for a while. Later in Matthew 26 we see something else about Peter. Peter was persistent, and in this case that is not a good thing. Look at Matthew 26:69-75, "Now Peter sat without in the palace: and a damsel came unto him, saying, Thou also wast with Jesus of Galilee. But he denied before *them* all, saying, I know not what thou sayest. And when he was gone out into the porch, another *maid* saw him, and said unto them that were there, This *fellow* was also with Jesus of Nazareth. And again he denied with an oath, I do not know the man. And after a while came unto *him* they that stood by, and said to Peter, Surely thou also art *one* of them; for thy speech betrayeth thee. Then began he to curse and to swear, *saying*, I know not the man. And immediately the cock crew. 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." Peter persistently lied. Luke's account of Peter's denial records what I think would be a horrifying moment. The third time Peter denied Jesus Luke 22:60-61 says, "And Peter said, Man, I know not what thou sayest. And immediately, while he yet spake, the cock crew, and the Lord turned, and looked upon Peter." Just a few hours ago Peter swore he would never deny Jesus, now Peter was cussing, spitting, and denying. Can you imagine how Peter had to feel? The Scriptures record that Peter ran out and wept bitterly. Last words have a haunting effect on us sometimes. Can you imagine Peter over the next several days? The last words he spoke about the One he professed his undying love to was "I don't know Him." The guilt alone would have been crushing. Yet this wasn't the last time Peter would get to talk to Jesus. The resurrection brought restoration for Peter. Peter would get a second chance. We read about Peter's second chance which occurred sometime between 8-40 days after Jesus' resurrection. It is recorded in John 21:15-17, "So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, *son* of Jonas, lovest thou me more than these? He

saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my lambs. He saith to him again the second time, Simon, *son* of Jonas, lovest thou me? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my sheep. He saith unto him the third time, Simon, *son* of Jonas, lovest thou me? Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third time, Lovest thou me? And he said unto him, Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love thee. Jesus saith unto him, Feed my sheep.” Theologians have often debated as to why Jesus asked Peter three times, “Do you love me?” The Bible doesn’t tell us, but we see that it broke the once prideful Peter. Yet in his brokenness we see the grace and compassion of Jesus by saying “feed My sheep.” Jesus was demonstrating grace to Peter. Jesus was offering forgiveness to Peter. Jesus was restoring Peter. Jesus gave Peter a simple command in John 21:22, “Follow thou me.” Peter was a new person that day. Back in our text of Mark 16:7 it says, “go tell His disciples and Peter.” Jesus had a special message for Peter that day, and He has a special message for you. I don’t care who you are, I don’t care what you have done, I love you enough to die for you, you can trust Me. We will finish this morning where we started. The truth about breaking a horse is that it has to be done in a certain way. If the horse develops a fear during the breaking process, the horse will carry that fear for the rest of its life, and you most likely won’t be able to ride the horse. God in the same way breaks each of us differently. He does it differently because He knows what it will take to get you to that moment of decision where you will either trust Him or run from Him. Everything in your life up to this point has been to get you to this point in which Jesus asks you a simple yet powerful question, do you love Me? Will you trust Me?