Matthew 26:69-27:10

 **\*Just then a cock crowed, and Peter remembered what Jesus had told him, “Before the cock crows, you will say three times that you do not know me. He went out and wept bitterly** *(Matt. 26:75).*

\***When Judas, the traitor, learnt that Jesus had been condemned, he repented and took back the thirty silver coins to the chief priests and the elders. “I have sinned by betraying an innocent man to death!”, he said. “What do we care about that?”, they answered. “That is your business!”.** **Judas threw the coins down in the temple and left;** **then he went out and hanged himself** *(Matt. 27:3-5).*

DVD Spot: **Matthew DVD on chapters 26, 27**

Discussion Questions

1) What do you think the difference is between guilt and shame? Do you feel guilt, or shame, over anything that you have done in the past? Talk about this, sharing examples that you are comfortable sharing.

2) Our Bible reading tells us about two people who felt guilty because of what they’d done, and who also obviously felt ashamed of themselves as people, because of what they had done. I’m talking about Peter and Judas. How do they respond to their guilt and their shame?

3) How does Satan try to use your guilt and shame?

What is he attempting to do?

4) What has God done for us to rescue us?

How does he want us to respond to Satan’s accusations?

5) What does God’s forgiveness of you mean for you?

How does it help you face the uncertain future, with the threat of the Corona virus over your life?

**\*If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and there is no truth in us. But if we confess our sins to God, he will keep his promise and do what is right: he will forgive our sins and purify us from all wrongdoing....**

**I am writing this to you, my children, so that you will not sin; but if anyone does sin, we have someone who pleads with the Father on our behalf – Jesus Christ, the righteous one. And Christ himself is the means by which our sins are forgiven, and not our sins only, but also the sins of everyone** *(1 John 1:8-9; 21-2).*

**\*There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus** *(Romans 8:1).*

 Quotes:

The following is are quotes from Sunday’s message on the theme: “No future without forgiveness”

\***When we do something that we know is wrong, or when we hurt someone by something we do, we feel guilty over what we have done, *and we also often feel ashamed of who we are.***

**Guilt and shame often go hand in hand. We feel guilty because of what we have done, and we often feel shame that we so ‘lousy’ a person that we would do such a thing.** For example, if I lied to my wife, I might feel guilty because I lied to her, *but I also might feel deep shame that I am the sort of person who could lie like that.*

\***Judas went out and hanged himself, so black was his despair and his remorse. He could have turned, *like Peter,* to God, and implored God’s forgiveness, and received God’s forgiveness. But he didn’t! He responded to his guilt and his shame by putting a rope around his neck....**

\***Satan continually tries to remind each of us of the Mongolian peasants in our life, *the people we have hurt in our life***

***by things that we have done.* Satan continually tries to drag us down into despair, and to try to take us along the road that Judas went.** Satan continually tries to say to us:

“You are a lousy, miserable so-and-so. You don’t deserve to live. You don’t deserve God’s forgiveness. You aren’t worthy of anything that God wants to give you. Give up on God, and give up on life”.

**Satan tries to take us along the road that Judas went to despair and destruction.**

\***But it is a road that we don’t have to go down, and a road that God doesn’t want us to go down. God loves each one of us. We are each special to Him, so special that He sent His Son, *part of His very self,*  to this earth to suffer and die for us. He loves us, despite our mistakes and our failures, *and our Mongolian peasants,* and He is ready to forgive us, any time, any place.**

**\*He wants us always to go the way of Peter: to fall down on our knees before Him, and to confess our sin, and to receive His forgiveness, *a forgiveness that was made possible through Jesus’ suffering and death for us,* *each of us.***

**\*We don’t have to be afraid of the future, because of what we have done in the past.** **We don’t have to be afraid that our sins in the past will exclude us from God’s love and His forgiveness in the future… Jesus died on the cross for all our sins.**

As Paul says,

**There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus** *(Rom. 8:1)*