

PETER MONOLOGUE

Put on the Peter costume and introduce yourself. **My name is Peter, and I am here to tell you about the saddest—but most important—night of my life. I have made notes (your script) so I do not forget anything.**

It was the night of the Passover Feast. Jesus, the other disciples, and I shared a Passover supper in an upper room. I did not know it then, but it was our last Passover supper before Jesus' death.

Afterward, Jesus asked me, along with James and John, to walk with Him to the Garden of Gethsemane. Jesus looked so sad. His shoulders slumped and His brow was wrinkled. He said, "My soul is extremely sorrowful. Stay here. Watch with Me." Then He went away to pray privately.

It was late, and James, John, and I were exhausted. In the distance we heard Jesus groaning and weeping in prayer. We tried to pray with Him, but soon I heard James snoring, and then I heard John snoring. Oh, how I wanted to stay awake. I wanted to watch and pray with Jesus, but I must have nodded off.

The next thing I knew, Jesus was shaking me. He said, "What? Could you not watch with Me for one hour? Watch and pray, that you enter not into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak." Then He turned and went back to His private prayer spot.

Again I meant to stay awake this time, and I really tried. The last thing I remember was the sound of Jesus' voice as He prayed, "O Father, if this cup may not pass from Me, except I drink it, Thy will be done."

Once again I woke up to Jesus standing over me. His brow glistened with little drops of blood. He had prayed so hard that He was sweating drops of blood. Jesus said nothing to me this time. He simply shook His head and walked away. I had the feeling I had failed Him and I had missed something important, but almost immediately, sleep overtook me once again.

The third time I woke up, Jesus was looking directly at James, John, and me. He said, "My hour has come. I have been betrayed into the hands of sinners."

In the distance I could hear the shouts of a mob. Then I saw soldier's torches. One of our own brothers, Judas, was leading the mob to arrest Jesus.

I felt so bad. This was my last opportunity to be with Jesus, and I had spent it sleeping. My flesh was so weak. It was the saddest night of my life. I wanted to pray, but I gave in to temptation and slept instead.

That is why I am here to encourage you to be strong. Watch and pray while there is still time. Jesus said it best: "Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation." Remove the costume.

- **Why was Jesus sorrowful?** *He knew what was about to happen.*

Why did Jesus want the disciples to watch and pray with Him? . . . He knew the temptations and persecutions they would soon face. Their spirits would desire to serve God and obey His commandments, but their flesh would be weak. Only through prayer would they be strong enough to face what was coming.

- **If Jesus thought it was so important for the disciples to pray, why did He let them sleep?** *Jesus never forces anyone to serve, follow, or obey Him. He simply calls us and gives us the choice of responding or not.*