

SERMON-BASED STUDY: PETER

Notes:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

ENGAGE WITH THE MESSAGE

Mark 14:27-31, ESV – ²⁷And Jesus said to them, “You will all fall away, for it is written, ‘I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered.’ ²⁸But after I am raised up, I will go before you to Galilee.” ²⁹Peter said to him, “Even though they all fall away, I will not.” ³⁰And Jesus said to him, “Truly, I tell you, this very night, before the rooster crows twice, you will deny me three times.” ³¹But he said emphatically, “If I must die with you, I will not deny you.” And they all said the same.

- 1 Would you describe Peter's assertion in verse 29 as arrogant, over-confident or just deeply loyal? Explain.
- 2 Why do you think Peter insisted on his loyalty even after Jesus predicted his specific failure?
- 3 In what areas of life might you be overconfident in your own strength, like Peter, rather than relying on God? Explain.

John 18:3-11, ESV – ³So Judas, having procured a band of soldiers and some officers from the chief priests and the Pharisees, went there with lanterns and torches and weapons. ⁴ Then Jesus, knowing all that would happen to him, came forward and said to them, “Whom do you seek?” ⁵ They answered him, “Jesus of Nazareth.” Jesus said to them, “I am he.” Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them. ⁶ When Jesus said to them, “I am he,” they drew back and fell to the ground. ⁷ So he asked them again, “Whom do you seek?” And they said, “Jesus of Nazareth.” ⁸ Jesus answered, “I told you that I am he. So, if you seek me, let these men go.” ⁹ This was to fulfill the word that he had spoken: “Of those whom you gave me I have lost not one.” ¹⁰ Then Simon Peter, having a sword, drew it and struck the high priest’s servant and cut off his right ear. (The servant’s name was Malchus.) ¹¹ So Jesus said to Peter, “Put your sword into its sheath; shall I not drink the cup that the Father has given me?”

4 What do you think motivated Peter to act so impulsively and violently?

5 Why did Jesus instruct Peter to put his sword away? What does this teach us about trusting in God’s plan?

6 In what situations are you tempted to use “swords” rather than trusting God’s plan? Explain.

Luke 22:54-62, ESV – ⁵⁴ Then they seized him and led him away, bringing him into the high priest’s house, and Peter was following at a distance. ⁵⁵ And when they had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and sat down together, Peter sat down among them. ⁵⁶ Then a servant girl, seeing him as he sat in the light and looking closely at him, said, “This man also was with him.” ⁵⁷ But he denied it, saying, “Woman, I do not know him.” ⁵⁸ And a little later someone else saw him and said, “You also are one of them.” But Peter said, “Man, I am not.” ⁵⁹ And after an interval of about an hour still another insisted, saying, “Certainly this man also was with him, for he too is a Galilean.” ⁶⁰ But Peter said, “Man, I do not know what you are talking about.” And immediately, while he was still speaking, the rooster crowed. ⁶¹ And the Lord turned and looked at Peter. And Peter remembered the saying of the Lord, how he had said to him, “Before the rooster crows today, you will deny me three times.” ⁶² And he went out and wept bitterly.

7 Peter was willing to fight in the garden, yet he cowers before a servant girl in the courtyard. What caused this sudden collapse of courage?

8 When Peter recognizes his failure, he reacts with bitter weeping. Why do you think he reacted so intensely?

9 Considering Peter later becomes a leader in the church, what does this story teach us about God’s grace and restoration?

TAKING IT HOME

1 Peter 5:5b-7; 10, ESV – ⁵ *Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.”* ⁶ *Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you,* ⁷ *casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.*

¹⁰ *And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you.*

Looking at the passage above, we see that Peter learned from his past failures. Peter set aside his pride and humbled himself before God. He acknowledged his sin, repented of it and allowed God to restore him. Are there sins in your life that are holding you back from truly being restored by God? Have you allowed pride to get in the way of your faith? Spend some time in prayer, asking God to show you what next steps you need to take in your faith journey.

PRAISES AND PRAYER REQUEST

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FOR FURTHER STUDY

Matthew 26:51-53

Mark 8:31-33, 16:6-7

John 13:6-9, 21:1-19