

Grace Greater than Our Failure 2020-01-19

John 18:15-18, 25-27

15 Simon Peter followed Jesus, and so did another disciple. Since that disciple was known to the high priest, he entered with Jesus into the court of the high priest, 16 but Peter stood outside at the door. So the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out and spoke to the servant girl who kept watch at the door, and brought Peter in.

17 The servant girl at the door said to Peter, "You also are not one of this man's disciples, are you?" He said, "I am not." 18 Now the servants and officers had made a charcoal fire, because it was cold, and they were standing and warming themselves. Peter also was with them, standing and warming himself.

25 Now Simon Peter was standing and warming himself. So they said to him, "You also are not one of his disciples, are you?" He denied it and said, "I am not." 26 One of the servants of the high priest, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, asked, "Did I not see you in the garden with him?" 27 Peter again denied it, and at once a rooster crowed.

Imagine if everyone knew the most shameful moment in your life.

- Peter's denial is recorded in all 4 Gospels for everyone to read.
 - Yet encouragement: God's grace is greater than our failure

Denials in different locations but generally same place (courtyard of High Priests) from 1:00 am–3:00 am during first 2 of 6 (3 illegal) trials of Jesus. Mark 14:29-31 & 67-70

- 1st denial – Peter denied being with Jesus....worried of guilt by association...genuine risk.
 - Miraculous only single rooster crowed and others silent.
 - Evidence Jesus Christ is God (omniscient) and in control of ALL things
 - Peter Heard 1st crow (Mark based on Peter's testimony) but ignored warning.
- 2nd denial – Peter denied being one of Jesus' followers;
- 3rd denial – Peter's Galilean accent and presence in garden forced him to fiercely deny even knowing Jesus. John 18:26-27, Matthew 26:73, Mark 14:70-72, Luke 22:61-62

◦ Peter went from simple falsehood to denials with oaths/cursings. His denial was not of the heart, but tongue, so 2nd crowing and Jesus' loving look through battered and swollen eyes broke Peter's heart with overwhelming guilt/shame

- We can't know what Jesus meant by His look, but it probably communicated His love and kindness because it led to repentance. Romans 2:4
 - God's grace is greater than Peter's failure.

Jesus prophesied Peter's terrible fall and promised restoration. Luke 22:31-34

- Peter probably never again heard rooster crow without feeling sorrow in his heart.
 - But he never was ashamed of Jesus or the Gospel after this.
- Peter repented, was restored and used monumentally.
 - If Jesus did not use failing, broken people, He wouldn't use anybody.

Nobody is immune to failure/sin.

- Failure can be a means of growth; learn from our/others mistakes.

Never overestimate your own spiritual strength or underestimate evil's power

- We are never more vulnerable than if think not vulnerable. 1 Corinthians 10:12, 15:33, Romans 13:14
 - Get/stay out of compromising/tempting situations.
 - If surrounded by wrongdoers, doing wrong easy.

Sin is like cancer....has way of growing and spreading if unchecked.

- Kill it early before it multiplies or even begins.

When sin, repent quickly with godly sorrow not worldly sorrow. 2 Corinthians 7:10

- Godly sorrow focus on sin, worldly sorrow on consequences of sin.
 - Godly sorrow does not hide sin but confesses it without excuses.
 - Others see God's grace is greater than our failures!
 - REALIZED: Peter probably revealed his most shameful moment so God's grace is displayed.

If led by Holy Spirit to share your failures, do it HUMBLY with the purpose that God's grace would be displayed to all who hear your testimony.

- They'll see that despite our sin, like Peter, Jesus still loves us, will not give up on us and will even use us for His glory. Romans 2:4b, John 21:15-19
 - They'll see that God's grace is greater than our failures.