

There is Hope for the Rest of Us

The Passion

John 18:12-27

March 22, 2020

THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURE

Context:

Peter was bold and brash. He was the unofficial leader of the disciples. He boasted of his loyalty, but when push came to shove, he failed miserably. As Jesus was facing trial, Peter was recognized. Suddenly, he wasn't bold anymore. He denied that he knew Jesus. One would think that this would be the end of his story. But it wasn't. He was commissioned for ministry and if God forgave Peter, he can forgive you. There's hope for the rest of us.

Key Scripture -

John 18:12-27

¹²So the band of soldiers and their captain and the officers of the Jews arrested Jesus and bound him. ¹³First they led him to Annas, for he was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, who was high priest that year. ¹⁴It was Caiaphas who had advised the Jews that it would be expedient that one man should die for the people.

Peter Denies Jesus

¹⁵Simon Peter followed Jesus, and so did another disciple. Since that disciple was known to the high priest, he entered with Jesus into the courtyard of the high priest, ¹⁶but 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. ¹⁷The 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." ¹⁸Now 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.

The High Priest Questions Jesus

¹⁹The high priest then questioned Jesus about his disciples and his teaching. ²⁰Jesus answered him, "I have spoken openly to the world. I have always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where all Jews come together. I have said nothing in secret. ²¹Why do you ask me? Ask those who have heard me what I said to them; they know what I said." ²²When he had said these things, one of the officers standing by struck Jesus with his hand, saying, "Is that how you answer the high priest?" ²³Jesus answered him, "If what I said is wrong, bear witness about the wrong; but if what I said is right, why do you strike me?" ²⁴Annas then sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.

Peter Denies Jesus Again

²⁵Now 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." ²⁶One 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?" ²⁷Peter again denied it, and at once a rooster crowed.

DISCUSSION & APPLICATION

- 1. Peter was genuinely afraid. His world was caving in. How would you have felt if you were in his shoes? Have you ever denied that you are a Christian? How did that feel?**



2. It's easy to buy the lie that when we let God down he can't use us anymore. Peter is an example of a man who did amazing things after a massive failure. How does his story encourage you? How can you help it to encourage others?

3. Jesus denied himself and went to the cross for our sin. At the same time, Peter was denying him. What does this say about the grace that Jesus displays toward you? How about the grace that you can display toward others?

NEXT WEEK'S TOPIC

Next Week: Trial in front of the Roman Governor – John 18:28-19:16

