

*Sermon on John 18:10-27 “Peter’s Problem” John 18:10-27*

<sup>10</sup> 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.

<sup>11</sup> So Jesus said to Peter, **“Put your sword into the sheath. Shall I not drink the cup which My Father has given Me?”**

<sup>12</sup> Then the detachment of *troops* and the captain and the officers of the Jews arrested Jesus and bound Him. <sup>13</sup> And they led Him away to Annas first, for he was the father-in-law of Caiaphas who was high priest that year. <sup>14</sup> Now it was Caiaphas who advised the Jews that it was expedient that one man should die for the people.

<sup>15</sup> And Simon Peter followed Jesus, and so *did* another disciple. Now that disciple was known to the high priest, and went with Jesus into the courtyard of the high priest. <sup>16</sup> But Peter stood at the door outside. Then the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out and spoke to her who kept the door, and brought Peter in. <sup>17</sup> Then the servant girl who kept the door said to Peter, “You are not also *one* of this Man’s disciples, are you?”

He said, “I am not.”

<sup>18</sup> Now the servants and officers who had made a fire of coals stood there, for it was cold, and they warmed themselves. And Peter stood with them and warmed himself.

<sup>19</sup> The high priest then asked Jesus about His disciples and His doctrine.

<sup>20</sup> Jesus answered him, **“I spoke openly to the world. I always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where the Jews always meet, and in secret I have said nothing. <sup>21</sup> Why do you ask Me? Ask those who have heard Me what I said to them. Indeed they know what I said.”**

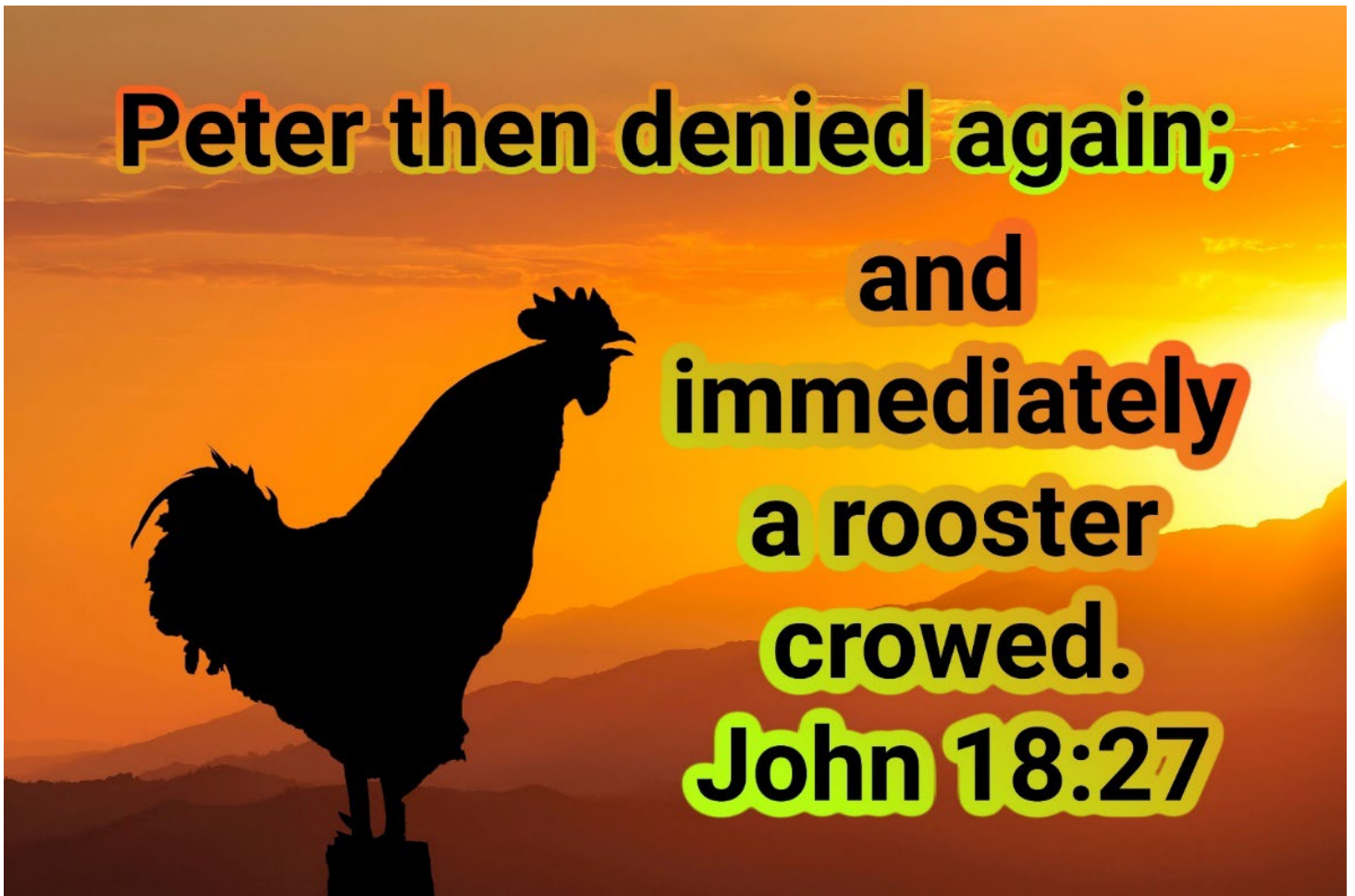
<sup>22</sup> And when He had said these things, one of the officers who stood by struck Jesus with the palm of his hand, saying, “Do You answer the high priest like that?”

<sup>23</sup> Jesus answered him, **“If I have spoken evil, bear witness of the evil; but if well, why do you strike Me?”** <sup>24</sup> Then Annas sent Him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.

<sup>25</sup> Now Simon Peter stood and warmed himself. Therefore they said to him, “You are not also *one* of His disciples, are you?”

He denied *it* and said, “I am not!”

<sup>26</sup> One of the servants of the high priest, a relative of *him* whose ear Peter cut off, said, “Did I not see you in the garden with Him?” <sup>27</sup> Peter then denied again; and immediately a rooster crowed. John 18:10–27 (NKJV)



*Immediately after Peter heard the rooster crow, we read in Matthew's gospel*

**<sup>75</sup> And Peter remembered the word of Jesus who had said to him, “Before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times.” So he went out and wept bitterly. Matthew 26:75 (NKJV)**

*It had to be the WORST moment in Peter's LIFE ...*

*Yet it was also LIFE CHANGING ...*

*From that moment on, Peter would no longer be Self-Confident, but his confidence would be in God and in Jesus Christ!*

*But let us consider John's firsthand account of what happened -*

*I. Peter seems ready to fight –*

**<sup>10</sup> 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. John 18:10 (NKJV)**

*1. What he is not ready for is Jesus' willingness to take the cross –*

**<sup>11</sup> So Jesus said to Peter, "Put your sword into the sheath. Shall I not drink the cup which My Father has given Me?" John 18:11 (NKJV)**

*2. This was at least the second time Peter had to be CORRECTED about the cross –*

**<sup>21</sup> From that time Jesus began to show to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day. <sup>22</sup> Then Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, "Far be it from You, Lord; this shall not happen to You!" <sup>23</sup> But He turned and said to Peter, "Get behind Me, Satan! You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men." <sup>24</sup> Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. Matthew 16:21–24 (NKJV)**

*A. Jesus had spoken of His coming death – Matthew 16:21*

*B. Peter felt a need to CORRECT Jesus – Matthew 16:23*

*C. But Jesus rebukes Peter, even calling him Satan – Matthew 16:23*

*D. Jesus finishes this debate not only arguing for His own cross but for ours as well – Matthew 16:24-26*

*3. Peter had proclaimed his wiliness to die with Jesus, also while contradicting Jesus –*

**<sup>33</sup> Peter answered and said to Him, "Even if all are made to stumble because of You, I will never be made to stumble." <sup>34</sup> Jesus said to him, "Assuredly, I say to you that this night, before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times."**

**<sup>35</sup> Peter said to Him, "Even if I have to die with You, I will not deny You!" And so said all the disciples. Matthew 26:33–35 (NKJV)**

*A. Peter seems willing to die fighting for and with Jesus ...*

*B. But taking the cross, allowing Himself to be arrested, these things MESSED with the less spiritual parts of Peter's mind and heart ...*

**<sup>37</sup> Peter said to Him, "Lord, why can I not follow You now? I will lay down my life for Your sake." John 13:37**

*Yes, Peter was willing to follow Jesus in a fight, but not in a total GIVE UP –*

**<sup>12</sup> Then the detachment of troops and the captain and the officers of the Jews arrested Jesus and bound Him. <sup>13</sup> And they led Him away to Annas first, for he was the father-in-law of Caiaphas who was high priest that year. <sup>14</sup> Now it was Caiaphas who advised the Jews that it was expedient that one man should die for the people. John 18:12–16 (NKJV)**

*Note Peter sees Jesus:*

*Arrested*

*Bound*

*Led away to be judged (Peter is disturbed by these things)*

## *II. Peter's denials –*

**<sup>15</sup> And Simon Peter followed Jesus, and so *did* another disciple. Now that disciple was known to the high priest, and went with Jesus into the courtyard of the high priest. <sup>16</sup> But Peter stood at the door outside. Then the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out and spoke to her who kept the door, and brought Peter in. <sup>17</sup> Then the servant girl who kept the door said to Peter, “You are not also *one* of this Man’s disciples, are you?” He said, “I am not.” John 18:15-17**

*1. Another disciple? John!*

*2. Peter had certain weaknesses:*

*A. He had a long standing problem with Jesus’ cross –*

**<sup>22</sup> Then Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, “Far be it from You, Lord; this shall not happen to You!” <sup>23</sup> But He turned and said to Peter, “Get behind Me, Satan! You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men.” Matthew 16:22-23**

*B. He had an unrealistic view of his own level of commitment –*

**<sup>37</sup> Peter said to Him, “Lord, why can I not follow You now? I will lay down my life for Your sake.” John 13:37**

**<sup>33</sup> Peter answered and said to Him, “Even if all are made to stumble because of You, I will never be made to stumble.” Matthew 26:33**

*C. He had not been praying –*

**<sup>40</sup> Then He came to the disciples and found them sleeping, and said to Peter, “What! Could you not watch with Me one hour? <sup>41</sup> Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed *is* willing, but the flesh *is* weak.” Matthew 26:40-41**

*D. Satan was after him –*

**<sup>31</sup> And the Lord said, “Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift *you* as wheat. Luke 22:31**

*We are all in a battle with Satan and his minions, we need God’s power –*

**<sup>10</sup> Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. <sup>11</sup> Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. Ephesians 6:10**

*3. With all his weakness, Peter had one thing going for Him, His relationship with Christ –*

**<sup>31</sup> And the Lord said, “Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift *you* as wheat. <sup>32</sup> But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to *Me*, strengthen your brethren.” Luke 22:31-32**

### *III. Peter’s denials were dreadfully weak denials –*

*1. The first was before a servant girl -*

**<sup>17</sup> Then the servant girl who kept the door said to Peter, “You are not also *one* of this Man’s disciples, are you?” He said, “I am not.” John 18:17**

*2. They happen when Peter is in relative comfort –*

*A. Jesus is being tried; He is struck, He is sent bound away –*

**<sup>19</sup> The high priest then asked Jesus about His disciples and His doctrine. <sup>20</sup> Jesus answered him, “I spoke openly to the world. I always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where the Jews always meet, and in secret I have said nothing. <sup>21</sup> Why do you ask Me? Ask those who have heard Me what I said to them. Indeed they know what I said.” <sup>22</sup> And when He had said these things, one of the officers who stood by struck Jesus with the palm of his hand, saying, “Do You answer the high priest like that?” <sup>23</sup> Jesus answered him, “If I have spoken evil, bear witness of the evil; but if well, why do you strike Me?” John 18:19-23**

**<sup>24</sup> Then Annas sent Him bound to Caiaphas the high priest. John 18:24**

*B. But Peter is warming himself by a fire, he is comfortable –*

**<sup>18</sup> Now the servants and officers who had made a fire of coals stood there, for it was cold, and they warmed themselves. And Peter stood with them and warmed himself. John 18:18**

**<sup>25</sup> Now Simon Peter stood and warmed himself. Therefore, they said to him, “You are not also *one* of His disciples, are you?” He denied *it* and said, “I am not!” John 18:25**

*3. Peter’s denial is a lie against someone who surely knew -*

**<sup>26</sup> One of the servants of the high priest, a relative of *him* whose ear Peter cut off, said, “Did I not see you in the garden with Him?” <sup>27</sup> Peter then denied again; and immediately a rooster crowed. John 18:26-27**

*4. According to Matthew who goes into more detail, Peter’s denials were extreme –*

*A. With an oath –*

*B. Claiming not to know Jesus, not even using Jesus’ Name - :72*

*C. Cursing and swearing - :74*

*D. But remembering and crying - :75*

**<sup>72</sup> But again he denied with an oath, “I do not know the Man!”**

**<sup>73</sup> And a little later those who stood by came up and said to Peter, “Surely you also are *one* of them, for your speech betrays you.”**

**<sup>74</sup> Then he began to curse and swear, *saying*, “I do not know the Man!” Immediately a rooster crowed. <sup>75</sup> And Peter remembered the word of Jesus who had said to him, “Before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times.” So he went out and wept bitterly. Matthew 26:72-75**

*It was right and good for Peter to realize his own weaknesses!*

#### *IV. What do we learn from these things?*

*1. Jesus was prepared by the power of prayer, Peter was not!*

*You might argue, but Pastor Jesus is God’s Son, He has an advantage!*

*Yes, but He still PRAYED! Even Jesus as God’s Son needed to pray, how much more do we need to PRAY? –*

*A. If Peter who walked on water, a few steps, needed to pray more, so do we!*

*B. If David who defeated Goliath could fall terribly, so could we –*  
**<sup>12</sup> Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall. 1 Corinthians 10:12**

- 2. Peter's sinful distaste for Jesus Christ's cross could probably be said to be because of Peter's love for Jesus. Because Peter loved Jesus, he did not want Him to endure the pain of the cross.*

*What is wrong with this?*

- A. The cross was God's will for Jesus, we are to pray, "Thy will be done." Matthew 6:11, even when that will be difficult.*

*Even when the person going through that difficulty is someone DEAR to us.*

*The closest thing I can think of to this is MISSIONARY CHILDREN ---*

*They are called to go far away ....*

*Maybe called even to DANGEROUS PLACES -----*

*Their "Christian" parents don't want them to go, but they should encourage them to God's service ...*

- B. When we look at Scripture, doing what is right and good is preferred before doing what is easy and comfortable –*

**<sup>24</sup> By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, <sup>25</sup> choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, <sup>26</sup> esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward. Hebrews 11:24–26 (NKJV)**

- C. True love for a Person, holds them up to God and His high calling –*

**<sup>48</sup> Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect. Matthew 5:48 (NKJV)**

**YET ....**

D. It is common today, in our WICKED WORLD, to equate allowing sin with LOVE!

Jesus said -

<sup>15</sup> **“If you love Me, keep My commandments. John 14:15 (NKJV)**

Our world says, if you love me, love my sin too, don't require me to keep commandments!

They say, “If you require me to keep God's commands, you are hateful!” But you are NOT!

Love them dearly, hold them to the highest!

3. *Realize we cannot depend on our own strength or abilities –*

<sup>5</sup> **“I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. John 15:5 (NKJV)**

<sup>10</sup> **Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Ephesians 6:10 (NKJV)**

<sup>22</sup> **“Look to Me, and be saved, All you ends of the earth! For I *am* God, and *there is no other*. Isaiah 45:22 (NKJV)**

4. *Jesus alone gains us victory and salvation in this lost world –*

<sup>11</sup> **And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death. Revelation 12:11**

A. *Who did they overcome?*

<sup>9</sup> **So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world ... Revelation 12:9**

B. *How did they overcome him?* **by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death. Revelation 12:11**

*Arnold A. Brevick*