



SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Week of March 10, 2024

Sermon Text Luke 22:54-62

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.

Discussion Questions

1. How would you define "spiritual failure"? From your own experience, what do you think leads to spiritual failure and how can one recover from it?
2. Although we might be critical of Peter as a cowardly denier of Jesus, give some examples of how we know he was actually brave and loyal. Why is it important for us to see Peter in this correct light?
3. In spite of Peter's bravery and love for Jesus, he ends up betraying Jesus, denying that He even knows Him. Describe what you think led to Peter's downfall. What is the danger of applying God's word to other people before applying it to ourselves? What does the lack of prayer reveal in our hearts and how can it lead to our own downfall?
4. As soon as Peter denies Jesus for the third time, Luke makes a point of telling his readers that *"the Lord turned and looked at Peter...And he went out and wept bitterly."* How would you feel if you were Peter? Why is it so important for Christians to know the difference between "godly grief" and "worldly grief"? (see 2 Corinthians 7:10)
5. How do you think Peter's failure made him stronger and even more effective for future ministry? What can we learn from Peter?