

4. What lessons can I learn?

- A. Don't be like Peter and become overconfident in my spiritual strength.

- B. As I follow Christ, expect there will be times when I will need to choose between costly courage and cowardly denial. Be prepared to follow Jesus and make the costly choice.

- C. We serve a gracious God of second-chances. When we fail Him, He is eager to restore us. We only need to confess our sin, repent and run to Him.

Life Group Questions

1. What stood out to you in this message? What did you learn that you didn't know?
2. What was unfair about Jesus' trial before the Sanhedrin? How would you have felt if you were Jesus? Why did Jesus endure such unfair treatment?
3. Read Mark 14:61-62. What was the significance of Jesus' answer? What is the significance of the phrases, "I am", "Son of Man" and "coming with the clouds of heaven"? See Psalm 110:1 and Daniel 7:13-14 for more insight.
4. Peter was Jesus' trusted friend, yet he stabbed Him in the back. Have you had a friend stab you in the back? How does Jesus' restoration of Peter help you when a friend betrays you?
5. While Peter loved Jesus, he was overconfident in his ability to follow Jesus. How can we recognize an overconfident Christian who doesn't sense his or her spiritual weakness? What do these verses teach us about guarding against our sinful nature and remaining faithful to Christ? See Romans 7:15-25, Mark 14:38, Galatians 5:16-26, Romans 8:13-14, Proverbs 16:18, and 1 Corinthians 6:18.
6. In what situations have you been like Peter and tried to avoid being identified as a Christian? How do the results of Jesus' response compared to the results of Peter's response challenge you to be bolder for Christ when you are tempted to deny Him?
7. How were Judas' and Peter's sins similar? How were their responses different? What does that teach us about how we should respond to our sin?
8. In John 21, we read that Jesus forgave Peter and restored him. After being restored, Jesus used Peter as a leader in the early church. How does Peter's restoration and legacy give you hope after failure and sin?

MARK THE KING AND THE CROSS

Mark 14:53-72 – Courage And Coward Under Pressure

October 18, 2020

1. The Background

"You shall appoint judges and officers in all your towns that the LORD your God is giving you, according to your tribes, and they shall judge the people with righteous judgment. You shall not pervert justice. You shall not show partiality, and you shall not accept a bribe, for a bribe blinds the eyes of the wise and subverts the cause of the righteous. Justice, and only justice, you shall follow, that you may live and inherit the land that the LORD your God is giving you." Deuteronomy 16:18-20 (ESV)

2. Jesus models spiritual courage under pressure.

And they led Jesus to the high priest. And all the chief priests and the elders and the scribes came together. Mark 14:53 (ESV)

So the band of soldiers and their captain and the officers of the Jews arrested Jesus and bound him. First they led him to Annas, for he was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, who was high priest that year. John 18:12-13 (ESV)

The high priest then questioned Jesus about his disciples and his teaching. John 18:19 (ESV)

Jesus 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. Why do you ask me? Ask those who have heard me what I said to them; they know what I said." John 18:20-21 (ESV)

When 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?" Jesus 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?" John 18:22-23 (ESV)

Annas then sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest. John 18:24 (ESV)

And Peter had followed him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest. And he was sitting with the guards and warming himself at the fire. Mark 14:54 (ESV)

Now the chief priests and the whole council were seeking testimony against Jesus to put him to death, but they found none. Mark 14:55 (ESV)

Now the chief priests and the whole council were seeking false testimony against Jesus that they might put him to death, Matthew 26:59 (ESV)

For many bore false witness against him, but their testimony did not agree. And some stood up and bore false witness against him, saying, "We heard him say, 'I will destroy this temple that is made with hands, and in three days I will build another, not made with hands.'" Yet even about this their testimony did not agree. Mark 14:56-59 (ESV)

And the high priest stood up in the midst and asked Jesus, "Have you no answer to make? What is it that these men testify against you?" Mark 14:60 (ESV)

But he remained silent and made no answer.... Mark 14:61 (ESV)

He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth. Isaiah 53:7 (ESV)

...Again the high priest asked him, "Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?" Mark 14:61 (ESV)

But Jesus remained silent. And the high priest said to him, "I adjure you by the living God, tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God." Matthew 26:63 (ESV)

And Jesus said, "I am, and you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power, and coming with the clouds of heaven." Mark 14:62 (ESV)

The Lord says to my Lord: "Sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies your footstool." Psalm 110:1 (ESV)

And the high priest tore his garments and said, "What further witnesses do we need?" Mark 14:63 (ESV)

"You have heard his blasphemy. What is your decision?" And they all condemned him as deserving death. Mark 14:64 (ESV)

And they began to accuse him, saying, "We found this man misleading our nation and forbidding us to give tribute to Caesar, and saying that he himself is Christ, a king." Luke 23:2 (ESV)

And some began to spit on him and to cover his face and to strike him, saying to him, "Prophesy!" And the guards received him with blows. Mark 14:65 (ESV)

3. Peter models cowardice under pressure to escape consequences.

And as Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant girls of the high priest came, Mark 14:66 (ESV)

...and seeing Peter warming himself, she looked at him and said, "You also were with the Nazarene, Jesus." Mark 14:67 (ESV)

But he denied it, saying, "I neither know nor understand what you mean." And he went out into the gateway and the rooster crowed. Mark 14:68 (ESV)

And the servant girl saw him and began again to say to the bystanders, "This man is one of them." Mark 14:69 (ESV)

But again he denied it. And after a little while the bystanders again said to Peter, "Certainly you are one of them, for you are a Galilean." Mark 14:70 (ESV)

But he began to invoke a curse on himself and to swear, "I do not know this man of whom you speak." Mark 14:71 (ESV)

And immediately the rooster crowed a second time. And Peter remembered how Jesus had said to him, "Before the rooster crows twice, you will deny me three times." And he broke down and wept. Mark 14:72 (ESV)

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." Luke 22:61 (ESV)

For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of Man also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels." Mark 8:38 (ESV)