

The Fall of Peter; The Rise of Christ
John 18:12-27

Last Sunday: Christ is arrested while Peter attacks.

Today: The fall of Peter and the rise of Christ. The Judge of the universe allows himself to be judged.

- Jesus' two trials: religious (Jewish) and civil (Roman). Each had 3 phases, so in a sense, Christ had to endure six court proceedings.
- Ultimate focus: the rise of Christ, but also the fall of Peter (found in all four gospels!).
 - “The day that a saint falls is the day that he ceases to fear to fall.”
- Mark 14:30 – “Truly, I tell you, this very night, before the rooster crows twice, you will deny me three times.”

18:16 – “The other disciple who was known to the high priest”

- Is this John or another disciple?
 - Not John: John never goes by this title; also, was John really known to the high priest?
- ‘Tis John: John and Peter often ministered together (Acts), and Zebedee (John’s father) was wealthy.

18:18 – “Peter also was with them, standing and warming himself.”

- Incorrect application:
 - Stay away from bad people! 1 Cor. 15:33 – “*Bad company ruins good morals.*”
- Correct application:
 - This scene sets the stage for the next round of denials and it highlights the danger of not being a witness.

Applications from The Fall of Peter; The Rise of Christ

Peter fell, yet he should have remembered:

1. Trust in the Lord
 - a. Pr. 3:5-6, “Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him and he will make your paths straight.”
2. Flee self-confidence
 - a. 1 Cr. 10:12, “Let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall.”

3. The destructive nature of Satan
 - a. 1 Pt. 5:8, “The devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.”
4. Keep watching and praying
 - a. Mt. 26:41, “Keep watching and praying that you may not enter into temptation; the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.”
5. His fear of man was currently more powerful than his fear of God
 - a. Hg. 1:7, “*Consider your ways.*”
6. The progressive nature of sin
 - a. (See David’s story in 2 Sm. 11).
7. God is going to work even this sin for his good
 - a. Rm. 8:28, “And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to his purpose.”
 - b. Ps. 50:20, “As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good in order to bring about this present result, to preserve many people alive.”

Christ rose, yet note what he did:

He feared God, not man. This led him to pray and follow through on his Father’s plan.