



A FAITH'S DENIAL
The Cross through the Eyes of Peter
Matthew 26:69-74, Luke 22:54-62
4.5.2020

I. Every Great Story has a Villain

- A. The most hated villains in movies are always back-stabbers
-THE TRUSTED FRIEND, WHO TURNS THEIR BACK WHEN NEEDED THE MOST
In Movies, Sports, History, and Life
- B. What happens when we turn our backs on Jesus?

II. Peter's Declarations

A. A Holy Week with Jesus

1. On Sunday -Peter follows Jesus into Jerusalem
2. On Monday -Peter watches as Jesus clears the temple
3. On Tuesday -Peter learns from Jesus as his teacher
4. On Wednesday -Peter sees where Jesus is anointed with oil
5. On Thursday -Peter joins Jesus and the other 11 disciples in the upper room for the Lord's Supper on the first day of the feast of unleavened bread

B. A Declaration of Devotion, Loyalty, and Allegiance

1. He Declares His Full Devotion (John 13:3-11)
"Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!"
2. He Declares His Total Loyalty (John 13:36-38)
"I will lay down my life for you."
3. He Declares His Complete Allegiance (John 18:10)
"then Simon Peter, having a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's servant and cut off his right ear."

IN ONE DAY, PETER WOULD DECLARE HIS FULL DEVOTION, HIS TOTAL LOYALTY, AND HIS COMPLETE ALLEGIANCE TO JESUS, AND IN THE VERY SAME DAY TURN HIS BACK ON JESUS IN JUST AS MANY WAYS.

III. Peter's Denials (John 13:36-38)

A. To Deny

i.e. a **refusal** to affirm or to confess (or identify with); to **disown** (Mt. 10:32-33)

B. Peter's Denial (Matthew 26:69-74, John 18:15-18)

1. **A Plea of Ignorance:** "I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT"
2. **A Rejection and an oath:** "I DO NOT KNOW THE MAN"
3. **A Curse and Disowning:** "HE BEGAN TO INVOKE A CURSE ON HIMSELF"

IV. With One Look (Luke 22:61)

- A. It means Jesus and Peter were within eye sight of one another when all this was happening,

AS PETER WAS IN THE MIDST OF TURNING HIS BACK ON JESUS;
JESUS TURNED AND LOOKED AT PETER.

B. Jesus looked STRAIGHT at him through the crowd, and STILL he continued to the cross.

JESUS DIDN'T GO TO THE CROSS BECAUSE OF OUR GREAT LOYALTY TO HIM;
HE WENT TO THE CROSS OUT OF HIS GREAT LOVE FOR US!

V. The Peter in Us

A. We've all Turned our Backs on Jesus (Isaiah 53:6)

"All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way"

B. The Penalty for Sin is Death (Romans 6:23)

"For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

C. While we were still sinners Christ died for us (Romans 5:8)

"but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

VI. Justice and Redemption

A. Justice

We all yearn for justice in this world and in the world to come. What's the point of a loving God who isn't just?

B. Redemption

We all know that if justice is required; then what we deserve is death, so we desperately plead for mercy and ask for redemption

-We want justice IN the world, but mercy FOR ourselves

THE ONLY WAY TO WITNESS BOTH
THE JUSTICE WE SO DESERVE
AND THE REDEMPTION WE SO DESIRE
IS IN THE TRUE STORY OF THE CROSS



1) Who comes to mind for you in sports, movies, or history as a friend turned into villain?

2) How might we relate to Peter and see Peter in us from this sermon?

3) How do you see the Cross of Jesus Christ in a new light from this week's sermon?
Or, how are you reminded of the Cross in a way you need right now?