

## **GOD USED THE ROOSTER TO CONFIRM ABOUT PETER!”**

JOHN 18:15-27

Bible Teacher: Rev. Alice Tamrie

### **I. Historical Background and Biblical Context**

God through Jesus Christ would have all of us to know that as disciples who follow Christ will encounter situations in life that will demonstrate how strong we must be when we claim that Jesus is the center of our lives even in challenging and unexpected situations. The divine purpose of the Lord is for us to see exactly what it takes to know that the assigned cup given to us as individuals demonstrates the humanity of ourselves as disciples of Christ and from our weaknesses and our imperfections. There are times we must speak up at the same time recognizing you may be physically and/or verbally assaulted for speaking up on godly and principled lifestyles. The Passion of the Word is to be deeply embedded, embraced, so that it can empower us to do the work of God as his disciples, in spite of the risks involved.

The synoptic Gospel as recorded in Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John gives us the intimate and public ministry of what it meant being a disciple of Christ. Periodically and gracious are the displays that are shown throughout the Book of John in these general and intimate interactions giving attention to the appeal of what takes to be a follower of God. The plan of salvation is that we must be obedient and remain faithful in our zeal to please the Lord. In these last chapters of John 18-21 shows how the passion of the Word deals with shaping our character, the deep and

abiding depth and varying degrees of success, and failures we face in dealing with people. We must be aware of the progressive development of our discipleship will reveal growth and failures in our journey with the Lord, and denial is one of those relevant themes that Jesus is exercising in our lesson today.

In the midst of this denial passage, we see Jesus' response on his way to a trial before Pilate in Verses 19-24. The denial of Peter, a disciple who had walked with Jesus is contrasted with the calm majesty of confident superiority of a man who knew without a doubt he is on a mission for God. Flesh is a mess! Denial in the Bible expresses one's depth of faithfulness to God... is it real or surface? A person may deny God in word or deed. Denial in word often involves disowning or rejecting a relationship with, or knowledge of God or Christ. Denial, especially refers to withholding something from someone or even self-denial – from the pleasures of the world for the sake of Christ. Thank God for Jesus' compassionate care and consideration of us in our development as His disciple. This is an invitation for us as disciples to be aware of the effect of our growth and what it entails. Later Peter remembered; went out and wept bitterly as our moral consciousness can convict us! This disciple went on in history to become the author of many Epistles, especially First and Second Peter, indicating our Christian lifestyle ought to be a testimony to non-believers and believers alike and be good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

## II. The Lesson: “God used the Rooster to Confirm about Peter!”

The Three Denials by Peter is expressly recorded in Verses 18:15-18, 25-27; Peter’s First Denial (Verses 15-18); (Accounts also in Mt. 26-69); Mk. 14:66; Lk. 22:54).

1. **Verse 15.** Simon Peter and another disciple were following Jesus. Because this disciple was known to the high priest, he went with Jesus into the high priest’s courtyard,
2. **Verse 16.** but Peter had to wait outside at the door. The other disciple, who was known to the high priest, came back, spoke to the servant girl on duty there and brought Peter in.
3. **Verse 17.** “You aren’t one of this man’s disciples too, are you?” she asked Peter. He replied, “I am not.”
4. **Verse 18.** It was cold, and the servants and officials stood around a fire they had made to keep warm. Peter also was standing with them, warming himself.

We can be in the inner circle as followers of Christ and be tested to the max in displaying our allegiance to God and still be challenged. Our character is not always rock like! These verses also show the favor of our acquaintances and the influence they have upon us. You know how it is when we have connections – it can take you places and give you favor. But is it worth it within the realms of position/status! Peter waiting outside the door gives us a perspective of how he had to linger behind this person before being introduced to the head of the household, that’s fine for respect, and humbling, but once inside the courtyard, a servant girl recognizes him as one of the

disciples and bam, by recognition, he denied and replied, “I am not”. You can run, but you can’t hide. Being in the cold and around the fire, warmed Peter, standing there with others, but it caused a chill to his reputation. In his life, he had a triple calling – a friend, disciple, and apostle. Being in contact with Jesus, seeing and hearing His words and works, Peter’s character was deepened and strengthened, but his character traits lend us to see him from many angles. In summary Peter was:

- a) Naturally impulsive (Matt. 14:28; 17:4; John 21:7)
- b) Tenderhearted and affectionate (Matt. 26:75; John 13:9; 21:15-17)
- c) Gifted with spiritual insight (John 6:68)
- d) Sometimes, slow to apprehend deeper truths (Matt. 15:15; 16)
- e) Courageous in his confession of faith in Christ, Matt. 16:16.
- f) Yet, guilty of a most cowardly denial (Matt. 16:16; John 6:69; Mark 14:67-71)
- g) Self-sacrificing yet inclined towards self-seeking (Matt. 19:27)
- h) Presumption-take for granted- (Matt. 16:22; John 13:8; 18:10)
- i) Immovable in his convictions (Acts 4:19, 20; 5:28, 29, 40, 42).

The High Priest Questions Jesus (Verses 19-24). (See also references in Mt. 26:57; Mk. 14:53; Lk. 22:63)

5. **Verses 19- 24:**. Meanwhile, the high priest questioned Jesus about his disciples and his teaching. “I have spoken openly to the world,” Jesus replied , I always

taught in synagogues or at the temple, where all the Jews come together. I said nothing in secret. Why question me? Ask those who heard me. Surely, they know what I said.” When Jesus said this, one of the officials nearby slapped him in the face. “Is this the way you answer the high priest?” he demanded. If I said something wrong, Jesus replied, “testify as to what is wrong. But if I spoke the truth, why did you strike me?” Then Annas sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.

These verses depict how our response should be in the midst of controversial and principled actions and be timely in our focus. It is amazing how this section comes right in the middle of the denials demonstrating how we need the strength of God and the caliber of being strong men and women on how to speak openly to all people even in the church and not in secret. Jesus says: “If you haven’t heard of me, then ask of those who have and according to the Law I have done nothing wrong.” The display of Injustice is everywhere (verses 19-21) and on how we should respond staying with a focus on our mission. This is a pristine example of strength and faith in action...sometimes to the point of being physically and/or verbally abused/assaulted for stating your opinion. These six verses focus on the fact when you have nothing to hide. Jesus has always so frequently and openly declared the principles of his kingdom and how witnesses could narrate in detail what he had taught for the past three years. Some folks will misinterpret your responses as disrespectful (Jesus was slapped!). There are times when we as Christians are bound to bear injuries and injustices but, without revengeful retaliation, but is privileged, even by the

example of our Lord, to call to question such mistreatment (MLK, Jr. in his non-violence advocacy). The assault was illegal on Jesus. Yet, nothing was done, and he was bound and transported, and later crucified. Jesus spoke up, without retaliation, but it wasn't the time. He was revolutionary in his attitude, disposition, and a showcase for us.

## 6. **Verses 25-27**. Peter's Second and Third Denials

“Meanwhile, Simon Peter was still standing there warming himself. So, they asked him, “You aren't one of his disciples too, are you?” He denied it, saying, “I am not.”

26 One of the high priest's servants, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, challenged him, “Didn't I see you with him in the garden?”

27 Again Peter denied it, and at that moment a rooster began to crow. Peter continues two more times and how he has denied that he was one of the disciples, not once, twice, but three times. Just what Jesus had predicted (14:30). Peter told lies that are recorded and perhaps more, for he was questioned by several people on three different occasions (Mk. 67-72; Mt. 26:69-75; Lk. 22:54-62). In these passages two maids, a man, and “they that stood by” all questioned him. There is no discrepancy for many could be together and could question him on these occasions. The first denial was in court (outside yard) where he was questioned by a female porter. The second denial was in the porch or the vestibule(foyer) where Peter had retired after being questioned. The third denial was an hour later inside the court – the place does not matter, but denial is possible anywhere!

**Denials of Peter:**

a) “You aren’t one of this man’s disciples too, are you?” she asked Peter. He replied, “I am not.” (Verse 17)

b) So, they asked him, “You aren’t one of his disciples too, are you?” He

denied it, saying, “I am not.”(verse 25)

c) One of the high priest’s servants, a relative of the man whose ear

Peter had cut off, challenged him, “Didn’t I see you with him in the

garden?” **Again Peter denied it a third time, and at that moment a rooster**

**began to crow. (Verses 26-27).**

Yes, he miserably failed his Lord in an hour of crisis, being the only disciple to deny Christ, yet he was restored and recommissioned by Jesus after His resurrection (this is grace). Legend has it that Peter deemed himself unworthy to die in the same way as his Lord had, and so begged his crucifiers to crucify him upside down. Yes, the man fell but rose again in character! Glory, to God, so can we today.

At the end of every sermon, there is an invitation. Praise God! There is hope still yet. There are revelatory steps in our repentance and salvation experience. We may fall but can rise again in true repentance. Here are some things as disciples where we are weakened by our own ambitions do: we boast of never offending others (Mt. 26:33); we make Christ a liar-yet I will never deny you (Mt. 26:33-35); sleep instead of prayer; failure to mortify the

flesh; forsake Christ and flee; follow afar off – so you won't be seen; sat with the Lord's enemies; gave up hope-discouraged; became afraid of men; lied; cursed. Yet, Luke's account have us see that Peter's backsliding and ours, details that are capable of denial and be later in re-conversion (Lk. 22:31-34).

### **III. Conclusion**

Do you know Jesus confidently? Are you saying: "Not me" even though your principled actions are justified and godly? Let us ponder our reactions when we see injustice and pray God to be exemplary in our growth as disciples of Christ. We must speak truth to power with the help of the Lord and testify to this truth and not in denial that your power comes from God.

Try not to have a rooster crow on you! Pray God that you will be strengthen and encouraged in your godly lifestyle as a man or woman of God.