

Peter's Lesson

Week of Mar. 30 - April 5, 2020

Introduction

This week's lesson is about two trials; Jesus' and Peter's. Inside the palace of the high priest - Caiaphas, Jesus is being questioned by a kangaroo court. Down below in the courtyard, Peter finds himself on trial as well. The questions keep coming and Peter keeps dodging them. He is a cagey fisherman who won't be caught! Or will he?

Lesson John 18:15-27

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, **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.

17 "You aren't one of this man's disciples too, are you?" she asked Peter. He replied, "I am not."

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.

19 Meanwhile, the high priest questioned Jesus about his disciples and his teaching.

20 "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. **21** Why question me? Ask those who heard me. Surely they know what I said."

22 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.

23 "If I said something wrong," Jesus replied, "testify as to what is wrong. But if I spoke the truth, why did you strike me?" **24** Then Annas sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.

25 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.

Questions

1. Jesus said that his teaching is now left for his followers and disciples to know what to say in the future. This is us. Do you have the courage to fully commit to Jesus and his truths and stand beside your own beliefs?
2. Being a bystander, doing nothing is like denying someone. Have you ever watched as something went wrong (car accident, hanging with a certain group, leaving a friend to be with the more popular people)? Would you be willing to tell the truth and stand by what is true?
3. In a situation where you know that if you speak up or intervene, you may put yourself in danger, (abuse or standing up to a stronger more powerful person) would you still ask God to help you tell the truth, even if you are concerned for your own well being?
4. Jesus does not hold grudges and he did not with Peter. Can you think of a time when you had to forgive someone who did not stand by you?

5. Jesus knows the disciples will continue to teach His word. Jesus will be faithful and rely on us. His love for us is unconditional. Even though the disciples denied Him, He continued to trust that in the future they would preach His message. Will you be willing to accept Jesus and the love of God and understand that His love for you is this immense? If so, will you stand by Him and the word when necessary and needed?
6. Can you reach out to opponents with forgiveness and kindness as Jesus did?
7. Take a moment to think about your reactions and what you stand for. These are important reflections. Perhaps standing up for yourself or others is needed more in your life. Can you ask for assistance from the Holy Spirit when you feel the need for it?

Prayer

Help me to remember to be strong, relying on Jesus' teachings and His love. He will help me to stand firm in my faith and the truth. Please help me to not have a mind of retaliation but to be like Jesus in my answer. Dear Lord please watch over me as I continue to strive for these actions. Amen