

Introduction

1. When last saw Peter, at lowest point in life. (Show Janssen Painting)<sup>1</sup> Only Judas lower.
  - a. After fleeing garden, Peter regained courage enough to enter courtyard of High Priest.
    - i. Must give Peter credit. Lesser man high-tailed it out of town.
    - ii. Between courage of entrance & cowardice of his denials, Peter became afraid.
    - iii. Became fearful recognized as one wielded sword. Arrested attempted murder.
    - iv. Tug of war in Peter's soul between courage & fear. Ultimately fear won out.
  - b. Satan often uses fear of others to lead us into sin. What say? React? Treat me?
2. Peter's denials progressed in intensity and severity.
  - a. Plea of ignorance, v. 68. Simple denial, v. 70. False oath, v. 71.
  - b. *Swear* = put himself under oath; *curse* = called down curses if lying.
  - c. 1<sup>st</sup> two denials = denied being identified w/Jesus; 3<sup>rd</sup> = denied Jesus Himself.
  - d. If sin is not dealt with, it progresses from bad to worse. Ignore sin & it grows.
3. None of this happened suddenly. Peter took steps from the Lord that led here. (Show):
4. *Spiritual failure is a process of taking steps away from the Lord that requires steps back to the Lord.*
  - a. Gratefully, not Peter's end. Was for Judas. Judas betrayed, then hanged himself.
  - b. Peter denied Jesus, then repented. (Show Title/Text)

**I. Spiritual Recovery – Conviction by the Holy Spirit, v. 72.**

**A. Two Simultaneous Events Convicted Peter**

1. 1<sup>st</sup>, rooster crowed a second time, v. 72.
  - a. In Jerusalem, a man observed over 12yrs rooster crows 3xs from Midnight-3am.<sup>2</sup>
  - b. Each crowing lasts from 3-5min. 1<sup>st</sup> = 12:30am, 2<sup>nd</sup> = 1:30am, 3<sup>rd</sup> = 2:30am.
  - c. Peter's three denials occurred in about one hour, less than two, vv. 68, 72.
  - d. W/rooster crowing over/over again, like alarm clock going off in Peter's soul.
  - e. H.S. used it to convict him of his sin, that he had denied Jesus 3xs.
2. 2<sup>nd</sup>, Jesus looked at Peter, Luke 22:60-62. (Show Bloch Painting)<sup>3</sup>
  - a. At precise moment Jesus led fr. house w/in glancing distance, Jesus looked at him.
  - b. As eyes locked, Peter saw bruised, bleeding face of Jesus.
  - c. This + repeated crowing caused Peter to *remember* the Savior's prophecy.
  - d. H.S. used both events to convict Peter's soul.

**B. Understanding Conviction**

1. Pastor John Guest – *All change begins with repentance.*<sup>4</sup>
  - a. *Repentance = to think differently, reconsider; it includes reformation, reversal.*<sup>5</sup>
  - b. There is no change w/o repentance. Unless we reconsider, we cannot reform.
  - c. And repentance begins with conviction of sin. *Compunction = prick sharply.*<sup>6</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Peter Denying Christ by Peter Janssen, 1869. <http://www.janssenart.de/pjalt/restoration/>. Accessed 1/6/18.

<sup>2</sup> William Lane (1974). *The Gospel of Mark*. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Pub. Co., p. 543.

<sup>3</sup> The Denial of Peter by Carl Bloch, 1873. <http://www.carlbloch.com/php/artwork.php?artwork=693>. Accessed 1/6/18.

<sup>4</sup> Heard John Guest, conservative Episcopal pastor, say this in a radio sermon. It stuck me very deeply.

<sup>5</sup> Strong, J. (1996). *The New Strong's Dictionary of Hebrew and Greek Words*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson. #s3340-41.

<sup>6</sup> Soanes, C., & Stevenson, A. (Eds.). (2004). *Concise Oxford English dictionary* (11th ed.). Oxford: Oxford Univ. Press.

- d. That's conviction, when conscience pricks us sharply w/guilt. No change w/o.
2. What was in Jesus' look? Answer helps us understand true H.S. conviction.<sup>7</sup>
  - a. **A Look of Knowledge** – *I know what you did.*
    - (1) H.S. conviction is when we know the Lord knows what we did.
    - (2) In the heat of his denials, Peter thinking about one thing – saving his skin.
    - (3) He was oblivious to the fact he was doing exactly what Jesus said.
    - (4) Sin is that way. Only one thinking about is self. Sin = self-centeredness.
    - (5) When H.S. convicts, we start thinking about the Lord. Prodigal son example.
    - (6) All about him...until conviction came. ([Show Luke 15:21](#))<sup>8</sup>
  - b. **A Look of Pain** – *I feel what you did.*
    - (1) As Peter saw already beaten face of Jesus, realized physical pain enduring.
    - (2) He knew added to it was the inner sorrow his denials caused.
    - (3) Conviction not just feeling bad, *I messed up*. Not foremost *I hurt people*.
    - (4) It is feeling, *I displeased the Lord. I caused Him sorrow*. ([Show Psalm 51:4](#))<sup>9</sup>
    - (5) Conviction comes when know we have displeased the Lord. ([Show Keller](#))<sup>10</sup>:
    - (6) *Legalistic remorse says, 'I broke God's rules'...real repentance says, 'I broke God's heart.'*
    - (7) Things between parent/child really change when child sees parent's heart.
    - (8) Real conviction comes when we see our sin against the heart of God.
  - c. **A Look of Love** – *I care what you did.*
    - (1) Agree w/those who say Jesus' look was not one of anger. Not wrath/rejection.
    - (2) Look of love. *I predicted this. I know it. I'm grieved by it. I love you despite it.*
    - (3) Think of it! Very moment Peter denied Jesus thinking only of himself,...
    - (4) Jesus was being led away to die for Peter because Jesus thinking of others.
    - (5) Peter was broken-hearted because it was a look of love.
3. Have any failed the Lord and are feeling broken-hearted. Don't resist it.
  - a. Best thing that could happen. Lowest times in life been when H.S. convicted me.
  - b. Also best times. That conviction led me back to the Lord. Don't resist it.

## II. Spiritual Recovery – Confession by the Sinner, v. 72.

### A. **Grieving Over Sin** (Peter experienced true biblical confession.)

1. Culmination of Peter's conviction is he went out & wept bitterly. ([Show Scene](#))<sup>11</sup>
2. These were tears of remorse. Godly sorrow not always issue in TEARS of remorse.
3. Sometimes does. All godly sorrow issues in FEELINGS of remorse.

### B. **Admitting Sin**

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<sup>7</sup> Alexander Maclaren, "Christ's Look" in Wiersbe, Warren (1995). *Classic Sermons on the Apostle Peter*. Grand Rapids: Kregel Pubs, pp. 140ff.

<sup>8</sup> <http://slideplayer.com/slide/8620913/>. Slide 14. Accessed 1/12/18.

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.slideshare.net/GFEC/gfec-how-do-i-get-a-fresh-start-in-life-psalm-51>. Slide 14. Accessed 1/12/18.

<sup>10</sup> Pastor Tim Keller. <http://www.azquotes.com/quote/673535>. Accessed 1/12/18.

<sup>11</sup> [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Robert\\_Leinweber\\_001.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Robert_Leinweber_001.jpg) Peter's Denial by Anton Robert Leinweber (before 1921). Accessed 1/6/18.

1. **Confess = to speak the same thing... admitting oneself guilty of what accused of.**<sup>12</sup>
2. 4 things can do w/sin – deny it, excuse it, blame others, admit it. God wants last.
3. Pres. R. Nixon's problem. *He could never admit he was wrong in anything...even when Nixon obviously had a cold – nose running, face red, sneezing, all the symptoms – he'd never admit it.*<sup>13</sup>
4. *It took me a long time to accept the fact that what happened (in Watergate) was my fault...The bottom line is that I brought it on myself.*<sup>14</sup>
5. That's what Lord waiting for us say: *It was my fault.* Longer wait, more distant remain.

### C. Forsaking Sin

1. Confession doesn't mean never sin again, but not want sin again. (Show Prov. 28:13)<sup>15</sup>
2. We may fall again, but we take necessary steps to avoid sin & keep close to Jesus.

## III. **Spiritual Recovery – Cleansing by the Savior, v. 72.**

### A. Final Step

1. When we do our part the Savior is ever ready to do His part.

### B. Peter Is Restored by the Lord Jesus (Show 4-fold Process)

1. Luke 22:61: A Look – *I love you.*
2. Mark 16:7: A Message – *I'll meet you.*
3. Luke 24:34: A Meeting – *I forgive you.*
4. John 21:15: A Ministry – *Serve Me.*
  - a. Restoration is first/foremost to the Lord & then to those hurt by our sin.
    - (1) Then it is restoration to ministry where we can be useful again.
    - (2) Church history has examples of people wanting skip 1<sup>st</sup> three & jump to #4.
    - (3) It doesn't work that way. Relationships must always be repaired before ministry.
  - b. Someone spoke w/me last Sunday that not always given same ministry like Peter.
  - c. True. God always restores us to Himself, but not always same ministry had before.
  - d. Goal of Christian life always God's priority, i.e., Rom. 8:28-29 = *image of His Son.*
  - e. If we will focus on 1<sup>st</sup> three, God's primary goal for us will be restored.
  - f. Then we can let Him decide #4, where we should serve & how we should serve.

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<sup>12</sup> Vine, W. E., Unger, M. F., & White, W., Jr. (1996). *Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words* (Vol. 2, p. 120). Nashville, TN: T. Nelson.

<sup>13</sup> Charles Colson, *Born Again* in Michael P. Green. (2000). *1500 illustrations for biblical preaching* (p. 290). Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books.

<sup>14</sup> Nixon to aide in 1991. *Detroit Free Press*. 5/30/98. Personal files under sin, admitting.

<sup>15</sup> <https://dailyverses.net/images/en/NIV/proverbs-28-13.jpg>. Accessed 1/13/18.