

The Restoration of a Sinning Saint

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I. Introduction.

- A. Text: Matthew 26.
- B. The greatest gift from God is the forgiveness of sin. (Exodus 34, I John 1:9)
- C. Even in the extremity of Peter's sin, there was the depth of God's forgiveness.

II. Peter protested the death of the Lord—he pledged great courage to protect Him and even defied the Word of the Lord.

- A. Peter's boast, defiance, indifference and impulsiveness led to his collapse.
- B. His collapse was inevitable.

III. The trial of Jesus. (John 18)

- A. Peter followed Jesus at a distance. His love for the Lord was real although weak, so he could not walk away.
- B. Peter denies that he knows Jesus when questioned.
 - 1. Peter is a living illustration that anyone can fall.
 - 2. The thing that reveals character is involuntary reaction and not planned response. (Luke 22:58)
- C. In Peter's second denial he is denying that he is a child of God—the second is worse than the first. Eventually we must admit that we do not have what it takes without God.
- D. Peter's third denial is hitting rock bottom. (Luke 22:59)
 - 1. He places a curse upon himself if he is not telling the truth.
 - 2. He gives a flurry of curses and lies to cover up a lie.
- E. The Lord turns and looks upon Peter after the third denial. (Luke 22:61)
 - 1. It must have burned Peter's soul at this look of compassion.
 - 2. Peter was no match for these events in the flesh.
 - 3. The difference between Peter's end and Judas's sin is that Jesus prayed for Peter. We are only saved because the Lord keeps us. (Luke 22:32)
- F. Jesus restored Peter. God is in the business of giving grace to sinners. (John 21)

Application questions:

1. Why is Peter's sin a valuable lesson for spiritual leaders?

2. What situations reveal a person's character the most?

3. What is something practical you can do to keep yourself from making the same error Peter did? Explain.
