

Sermon Reflections

The Good Confession (Part 2) Matthew 26:57-75

Summary: When difficulties arise, our faith gets tested. And what surfaces is either courage or cowardice, faithfulness or failure. How can we prepare to be faithful to make the good confession?

1. Take Courage in the Face of Christ's Faithfulness (Matthew 26:57-68)
2. Find Hope in the Face of Your Faithlessness (Matthew 26:69-75)

A. Peter's Descent into Apostasy (vv. 69-74)

- Peter denied Jesus with a lie. After Peter's bold declaration that "Even if I must die with you, I will not deny you!"- he failed when confronted by a servant girl. What circumstances tempt you to deny Jesus with such a calculated lie? These type of situations seem to come when we least expect it and catch us off guard. How can you be better prepared for these times?
- Peter denied Jesus with an oath. When pressed, Peter was not as bold as he once thought. The situation exposed his weakness and frailty. If not a servant girl, in what interactions have you found yourself cowering from being associated with Christ? Looking back, how should you have responded?
- Peter denied Jesus with a curse. Peter did not just suddenly find himself in such a state of denial. He got here step by step. Little compromises over time led him right to this moment. How does this intense denial and step by step process confront your own heart? In what ways do you identify with Peter?

B. Peter's Descent into Despair (vv. 75)

- Why do people despair? What is it that is taking place in the mind to bring someone to such internal pain and suffering? How does internal despair affect our external life?

C. How Can One Come out of Such Despair? (Matt 27:3-5; 2 Cor 7:8-10, John 21; Luke 22:31)

- When failure comes what are some ways people try and remedy their situation and alleviate their mind? How were Peter and Judas alike? How were they different?
- Hope is found in repentance. What role does repentance have in the midst of failure? What is the difference between worldly sorrow and godly sorrow?
- Hope is found in your Redeemer's restoration. How did Christ restore Peter?
- Hope is found in your Redeemer's prayers and plans for you. How does the knowledge of Christ's prayers and plans on our behalf bring a glad expectation of the future?

What prevented Peter's faith from ultimately failing?