

Morning Sermon July 7, 2019
“Jesus’ Trial, Peter’s Denials” John 18:12-27

I. *Jesus’ trial, at least the first part of it –*

1. *His arrest –*

A. *With a detachment of troops -*

¹² Then the detachment of troops and the captain and the officers of the Jews arrested Jesus and bound Him. John 18:12

Detachment - *σπεῖρα, ης f*: a Roman military unit of about six hundred soldiers, though only a part of such a cohort was often referred to as a cohort—‘cohort, band of soldiers.’ ... ‘Judas came there with a group of soldiers and some temple guards sent by the chief priests and Pharisees’ Jn 18:3. Louw, J. P., & Nida, E. A. (1996). *Greek-English lexicon of the New Testament: based on semantic domains*

- *This was both not enough, they could not take Jesus by force –*

⁶ Now when He said to them, “I am *He*,” they drew back and fell to the ground. John 18:6

- *And MORE than enough, at the same time –*

⁸ Jesus answered, “I have told you that I am *He*. Therefore, if you seek Me, let these go their way,” John 18:8

B. *At night –*

³ Then Judas, having received a detachment of troops, and officers from the chief priests and Pharisees, came there with lanterns, torches, and weapons. John 18:3

⁵³ When I was with you daily in the temple, you did not try to seize Me. But this is your hour, and the power of darkness.” Luke 22:53

Here darkness has an evil connotation to it!

2. *Trial, part 1 –*

A. *Annas / Caiaphas -*

¹³ And they led Him away to Annas first, for he was the father-in-law of Caiaphas who was high priest that year. ¹⁴ Now it was Caiaphas who advised the Jews that it was expedient that one man should die for the people. John 18:13-14

Here is the hint these people planned Jesus would die... Jesus was considered guilty with no hope of being proved innocent, the trial was a farce –

II. *Peter’s denials –*

¹⁵ And Simon Peter followed Jesus, and so *did* another disciple. Now that disciple was known to the high priest, and went with Jesus into the courtyard of the high priest. ¹⁶ But Peter stood at the door outside. Then the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out and spoke to her who kept the door, and brought Peter in. ¹⁷ Then the servant girl who kept the door said to Peter, “You are not also *one* of this Man’s disciples, are you?” He said, “I am not.” John 18:15-17

1. *Another disciple???*

2. *Peter had certain weaknesses:*

A. *He had a problem with Jesus’ cross –*

²¹ From that time Jesus began to show to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day. ²² Then Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, “Far be it from You, Lord; this shall not happen to You!” ²³ But He turned and said to Peter, “Get behind Me, Satan! You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men.” Matthew 16:21-24

B. *He had an unrealistic view of his own level of commitment –*

³⁷ Peter said to Him, “Lord, why can I not follow You now? I will lay down my life for Your sake.” John 13:37

³³ Peter answered and said to Him, “Even if all are made to stumble because of You, I will never be made to stumble.” Matthew 26:33

C. *He had not been praying –*

⁴⁰ Then He came to the disciples and found them sleeping, and said to Peter, “What! Could you not watch with Me one hour? ⁴¹ Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed *is* willing, but the flesh *is* weak.” Matthew 26:40-41

D. *Satan was after him –*

³¹ And the Lord said, “Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat. Luke 22:31

We are all in a battle with Satan and his minions, we need God's power –

¹⁰ Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. ¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. Ephesians 6:10

3. *With all his weakness, Peter had one thing going for Him, His relationship with Christ –*

³¹ And the Lord said, "Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat. ³² But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren." Luke 22:31-32

III. *Peter's denials were dreadfully weak denials –*

1. *The first was before a servant girl -*

¹⁷ Then the servant girl who kept the door said to Peter, "You are not also one of this Man's disciples, are you?" He said, "I am not." John 18:17

2. *They happen when Peter is in relative comfort –*

A. *Jesus is being tried; He is struck, He is sent bound away –*

¹⁹ The high priest then asked Jesus about His disciples and His doctrine. ²⁰ Jesus answered him, "I spoke openly to the world. I always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where the Jews always meet, and in secret I have said nothing. ²¹ Why do you ask Me? Ask those who have heard Me what I said to them. Indeed they know what I said."

²² And when He had said these things, one of the officers who stood by struck Jesus with the palm of his hand, saying, "Do You answer the high priest like that?" ²³ Jesus answered him, "If I have spoken evil, bear witness of the evil; but if well, why do you strike Me?" John 18:19-23

²⁴ Then Annas sent Him bound to Caiaphas the high priest. John 18:24

B. *But Peter is warming himself by a fire, he is comfortable –*

¹⁸ Now the servants and officers who had made a fire of coals stood there, for it was cold, and they warmed themselves. And Peter stood with them and warmed himself. John 18:18

²⁵ Now Simon Peter stood and warmed himself. Therefore they said to him, "You are not also one of His disciples, are you?" He denied it and said, "I am not!" John 18:25

3. *Peter's denial is a lie against someone who surely knew -*

²⁶ One of the servants of the high priest, a relative of him whose ear Peter cut off, said, "Did I not see you in the garden with Him?" ²⁷ Peter then denied again; and immediately a rooster crowed. John 18:26-27

4. *According to Matthew who goes into more detail, Peter's denials were extreme –*

A. *With an oath –*

B. *Claiming not to know Jesus, not even using Jesus' Name - :72*

C. *Cursing and swearing - :74*

D. *But remembering and crying - :75*

⁷² But again he denied with an oath, "I do not know the Man!"

⁷³ And a little later those who stood by came up and said to Peter, "Surely you also are one of them, for your speech betrays you."

⁷⁴ Then he began to curse and swear, saying, "I do not know the Man!" Immediately a rooster crowed. ⁷⁵ And Peter remembered the word of Jesus who had said to him, "Before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times." So he went out and wept bitterly. Matthew 26:72-75

IV. *What do we learn from these things?*

1. *Jesus was prepared by the power of prayer, Peter was not! You might argue, but Pastor Jesus is God's Son, He has an advantage! Yes, but He still PRAYED! Even Jesus as God's Son needed to pray, how much more do we need to PRAY? –*

A. *If Peter who walked on water, a few steps, needed to pray more, so do we!*

B. *If David who defeated Goliath could fall terribly, so could we –*
¹² Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall. 1 Corinthians 10:12

2. *Jesus alone gains us victory and salvation in this lost world –*

¹¹ And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death. Revelation 12:11

A. *Who did they overcome?*

⁹ So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world ... Revelation 12:9

B. *How did they overcome him? by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death. Revelation 12:11*

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