

Peter
Easter Sunday 2019

The disciple Peter was a man like us, he is somebody that we can all relate to. Peter was a man with a big heart (and big mouth) and incredible potential, but he did not have it all together. Perhaps that is why we relate to him so much and why his part in Jesus' death and resurrection is so impactful.

Read: Luke 5:10

Peter was a pivotal leader and had great courage, but he was also fully human with faith and doubts; courage and fears.

Reflect: What makes a great leader? How do doubts and fears make a person a better leader?

Read: Luke 22:54-62

We can see Peter's humanity on full display in this chapter. At dinner, Peter declares to Jesus that he would die for Him, then, later that night denies Him three times. Peter wasn't the only one to deny Jesus, all of the disciples did when they ran away. And so have every one of us, we have all had epic failures in our lives. The fact is we all fail.

After Peter denied Jesus, he heard the rooster crow and **sees Jesus look directly at him**, and he wept bitterly after he recognized what had happened. In the same way, when we realize the implications of our failures and are filled with guilt and shame; that is the rooster crowing for us.

Reflect: What is the importance of knowing Jesus looked directly at Peter after the rooster crowed?

Some theologians believe the rooster may have referred to the temple crier who would shout every morning:

- Prepare to sacrifice
- Prepare to serve
- Come to worship

Reflect: How would those three phrases impact Peter after he denied Jesus? How would they impact Jesus on the morning of his crucifixion and right after hearing Peter deny him three times?

Read: Mark 16:1-7

It is significant that the angel told the three ladies to, "go, tell His disciples **and Peter**."

Reflect: What is the importance of naming Peter specifically? Place your name in that sentence.

Summary

What we celebrate this weekend is that Jesus did something about all our failures and shortcomings. The greatest force that won out that day was the love from the Lamb of God, who sacrificed His life to serve mankind. Peter was so confident of reconciliation with Jesus that he jumped out of a boat and swam to him when he saw him after the resurrection. We can be confident of that reconciliation for us as well.

Prayer: Make time to pray for one another before you dismiss your group.