

## Sermon Notes

### An Anatomy of a Fall

(John 18:1-27)

“When Jesus had spoken these words, He went forth with His disciples over the ravine of the Kidron, where there was a garden, in which He entered with His disciples. Now Judas also, who was betraying Him, knew the place, for Jesus had often met there with His disciples. Judas then, having received the Roman cohort and officers from the chief priests and the Pharisees, came there with lanterns and torches and weapons. So Jesus, knowing all the things that were coming upon Him, went forth and said to them, “Whom do you seek?” They answered Him, “Jesus the Nazarene.” He said to them, “I am He.” And Judas also, who was betraying Him, was standing with them. So when He said to them, “I am He,” they drew back and fell to the ground. Therefore He again asked them, “Whom do you seek?” And they said, “Jesus the Nazarene.” Jesus answered, “I told you that I am He; so if you seek Me, let these go their way,” to fulfill the word which He spoke, “Of those whom You have given Me I lost not one.” Simon Peter then, having a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's slave, and cut off his right ear; and the slave's name was Malchus. So Jesus said to Peter, “Put the sword into the sheath; the cup which the Father has given Me, shall I not drink it?” (John 18:1-11)

#### **Step 1 in Peter's Fall: Unbelief.** (Matthew 25:31-35)

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not rely on your own insight. In all your ways, acknowledge Him and He will make your paths straight. Do not be wise in your own eyes. Fear the Lord and turn from all evil. It will be healing to your body and refreshment to your bones.” (Proverbs 3:5-7)

#### **Step 2 in Peter's Fall: Independence.** (Matthew 25:36-46)

“For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools and exchanged the glory of God for an image in the form of corruptible man and of birds and four-footed animals and crawling creatures.” (Romans 1:21-23)

#### **Step 3 in Peter's Fall: Small Compromises** (John 18:15-18, 25-27)

“Simon Peter was following Jesus, and so was another disciple. Now that disciple was known to the high priest, and entered with Jesus into the court of the high priest, but Peter was standing at the door outside. So the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out and spoke to the doorkeeper, and brought Peter in. Then the slave-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.” Now the slaves and the officers were standing there, having made a charcoal fire, for it was cold and they were warming themselves; and Peter was also with them, standing and warming himself. (John 18:15-18)

Now Simon Peter was standing and warming himself. So they said to him, “You are not also one of His disciples, are you?” He denied it, and said, “I am not.” One of the slaves of the high priest, being a relative of the one whose ear Peter cut off, said, “Did I not see you in the garden with Him?” Peter then denied it again, and immediately a rooster crowed.” (John 18:25-27)

## **For Further Thought and Discussion**

### **Getting Started**

What was helpful to you in this week's sermon? What didn't you understand?

Do you think most people fall into sin all at once or little by little? Why? Can you illustrate your answer from your own experience?

### **Going Deeper**

1. Please read John 18:1-11. What differences do you observe between how Jesus handles this situation and the way Peter handles it?
2. Please read Matthew 25:31-35. What do you notice about Peter in these verses? Why is unbelief and disagreeing with Jesus always the first step in falling into sin? Can you think of a way unbelief has led you into sin?
3. Please read Matthew 25:36-46. Compare Jesus with Peter. What does this tell you about Jesus? About Peter? How does unbelief always lead us into independence from God and depending on ourselves? Where do you experience the most difficulty in depending on God?
4. Please read John 18:15-18 and 25-27. Compare Peter's denials. What do you observe? Why do most people fall into sin once small compromise at a time? How have small compromises led to bigger compromises in your own life?
5. Why is Peter's sad story ultimately hopeful? How do we repent after we've fallen?

### **Application**

What is one thing you can do this week to apply this passage?