

I. Distance - Luke 22:54-55

1. Seized - arrested and taken away (**verse 54**)
 - by force
 - taken to the house of the high priest
 2. Caiaphas was high priest that year
 - Annas was Caiaphas's father-in-law
 - at John 18 we are told that Jesus was first taken to Annas then Caiaphas
 3. Peter is there but "at a distance"
- Rea -there's a sermon here about following Jesus,... but "keeping our distance"
4. The fire in the courtyard (**verse 55**)
 - warming himself in the courtyard
- Rea -again:
- at a distance
 - with the worldly persons
 - this is a set-up for Christian failure
- Rea **Ideas and Questions:**
1. When we are distanced from Jesus we inevitably are close to the world
 - its either one or the other
 2. Do we need give Peter credit for at least being there?
 - does he follow like this because he's confused about just what to do?
 3. Discuss trials and how they are swayed one way or another

II. Denial - Luke 22:56-60

1. A servant girl sees him (**verse 56**)
 - this man was with Him (after looking closely)
 2. He denies it - I don't know Him (**verse 57**)
 3. A little later (**verse 58**) - someone else saw him
 - I am not! - emphatic this time
 4. Another accuser (**verse 59**) - an hour later
 - he is a Galilean
 - "asserted" in Greek speaks to continuous action
 5. Another denial (**verse 60**) - I don't know what you're talking about
 - at Mt. 26:74 and Mark 14:71 Peter cursed
- Rea **Ideas and Questions:**
1. Sometimes we try to fit in with the worldly crowd, and sometimes they don't want us
 2. Timing is huge... while Jesus is on the trial of His life, at that same time Peter is denying Him
 3. Discuss ways in which we (too) deny our Lord

IV. Defeat - Luke 22:60-62

1. The rooster crowed (**verse 60**)
 2. Jesus looked at Peter (**verse 61**)
 - at the moment of the crowing of the rooster
- Rea -eyes locked??

- Rea -he remembered the words he'd spoken
- Rea -so... pre-warned yet still sins - Eve was forewarned about sin bringing death at the garden
- Rea -the word "denial" and "disown" are different to me. At verse 61 "disown" stings worse.
- Rea -these verses give the sense (to me) that Peter was caught, confused and off balance - by his own deed
3. He goes outside and "wept bitterly" (**verse 62**)
- emotions overwhelmed
- remorse
- Rea **Ideas and Questions:**
1. Obviously close enough for Peter and Jesus to look at one another
 2. This is conviction - made all the more heavy by his confession that he would "never" do this
 3. If Peter can fail his Lord, so, we can fail Jesus too
 4. You know the story how Jesus later found him and said - "Peter do you love me?"
 5. A great lesson to discuss Christian failure
 6. Deep failure requires deep cleansing - repeatedly asked - "do you love me?"

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