

## John 18: 25-40

### Peter Denies Jesus Again

<sup>25</sup> Now Simon Peter was standing and warming himself. So they said to him, "You also are not one of his disciples, are you?" He denied it and said, "I am not." <sup>26</sup> One of the servants of the high priest, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, asked, "Did I not see you in the garden with him?" <sup>27</sup> Peter again denied it, and at once a rooster crowed.

This was the **fulfillment of John 13:38**

<sup>38</sup> Jesus answered, "Will you lay down your life for me? Truly, truly, I say to you, the rooster will not crow till you have denied me three times.

Why do we tilt toward confidence in the flesh—instead of solid confidence in Jesus?

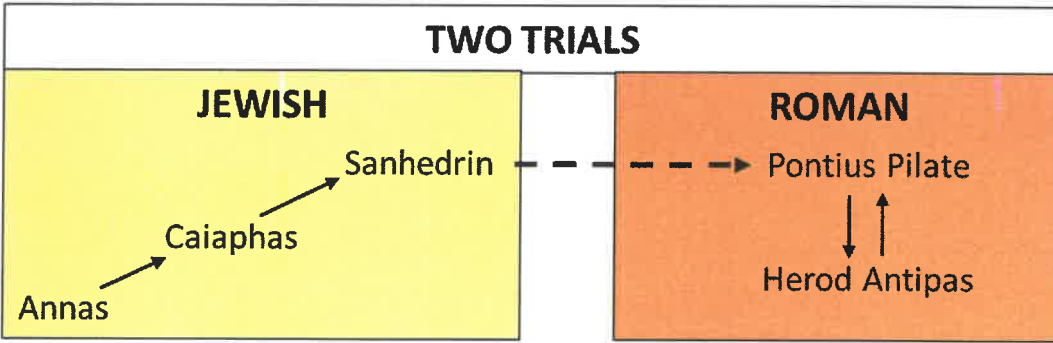
#### Principle #1:

Peter's denials teach us about the depravity of the human heart:

- ✓ Conflicted, deceitful, unreliable
- ✓ Peter's confidence in the flesh only plunged him into denying Jesus
- ✓ Where it is set; where our treasure is
- ✓ The kind of people for which Jesus willingly died

#### Principle #2:

Peter's denials just emphasize the loneliness of Jesus' suffering & death. Jesus goes it alone on a road on which no one could join Him.



- Annas:**
- High Priest until AD 15
  - Appointed by Rome
  - Removed from office by Rome
  - Considerable influence for years later
  - Emeritus; still called “High Priest’
  - 5 sons became high priests
  - Son-in-law = Caiaphas (High Priest)
  - Affluent; connected to Roman rulers
  - Persecuted early church (Acts 4)

- Caiaphas:**
- High Priest AD 18-36 (longest ever)
  - Appointed by Rome
  - Sadducee
  - Preeminent expert in Jewish law
  - Kept Jews peaceful w/ Rome
  - Friendly with Roman governors
  - Wanted Jesus dead (John 11)
  - Declared blasphemy in Jesus
  - Oversaw Jesus’ death sentence
  - Left office when Pilate left

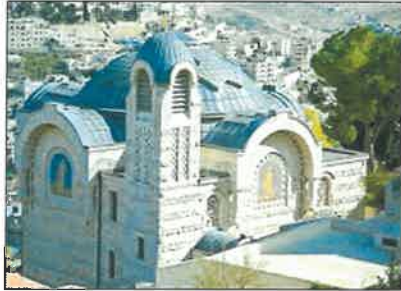
- Sanhedrin:**
- “Supreme Court” of ancient Israel
  - 70 men (priests), plus High Priest
  - Convened every day
  - All questions of law were ultimately decided here

- Pontius Pilate:**
- Governor of Judea AD 26-36
  - Appointed by Rome
  - Military ruler rather than Jewish leader
  - Israel was undesired assignment from Rome (rebellious Jews)
  - Reported to Tiberius in Rome
  - Resided in Caesarea
  - Visited Jerusalem for Jewish feasts (assuring law & order)
  - Stern, friendless, selfish, cowardly
  - Tenuous status with Rome

- Herod Antipas:**
- Ruler of Galilee
  - Son of Herod the Great
  - Herod (Galilee) & Pilate (Judah) had similar roles
  - Pilate sent to Herod because:
    - Herod was visiting
    - Jesus was a Gallilean
    - He might pick up case
    - Nope
  - Herod & Pilate were enemies
  - Friends after Jesus’ death (Luke 23)

## Jesus Before Pilate

**28** Then they led Jesus from the house of Caiaphas to the governor's headquarters. It was early morning.



Church of St. Peter in Gallicantu (Cock's Crow")  
—former House of Caiaphas



## Jesus Before Pilate

**28** Then they led Jesus from the house of Caiaphas to the governor's headquarters. It was early morning. They themselves did not enter the governor's headquarters, so that they would not be defiled, but could eat the Passover. **29** So Pilate went outside to them and said, "What accusation do you bring against this man?" **30** They answered him, "If this man were not doing evil, we would not have delivered him over to you." **31** Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and judge him by your own law." The Jews said to him, "It is not lawful for us to put anyone to death." **32** This was to fulfill the word that Jesus had spoken to show by what kind of death he was going to die.

Is there a lesson in here for us?

Sometimes, God hates religion. **When is that?**

**Principle #3:**

We can count ourselves among the hypocrites when we perform “good” works while our hearts are far from God.

Jesus said this same thing, quoting Isaiah in Matt 15:

**So for the sake of your tradition you have made void the word of God. <sup>7</sup> You hypocrites! Well did Isaiah prophesy of you, when he said:**

**<sup>8</sup> “This people honors me with their lips,  
but their heart is far from me;  
<sup>9</sup> in vain do they worship me,  
teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.”**

**Why did our Heavenly Father want Jesus to be crucified?**

John 8:28

So Jesus said to them, “When you have **lifted up** the Son of Man, then you will know that I am he...

John 12: 31-32

Now is the judgment of this world; now will the ruler of this world be cast out. <sup>32</sup> And I, when I am **lifted up** from the earth, will draw all people to myself.”

John 3:14

And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be **lifted up**, <sup>15</sup> that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

Jewish stoning would have broken the bones of the Lamb of God.

Psalm 34:20

He keeps all his bones;  
not one of them is broken.

John 19:33

But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs.

John 19:36

For these things took place that the Scripture might be fulfilled: “Not one of his bones will be broken.”

## My Kingdom Is Not of This World

<sup>33</sup> So Pilate entered his headquarters again and called Jesus and said to him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" <sup>34</sup> Jesus answered, "Do you say this of your own accord, or did others say it to you about me?" <sup>35</sup> Pilate answered, "Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have delivered you over to me. What have you done?" <sup>36</sup> Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But my kingdom is not from the world." <sup>37</sup> Then Pilate said to him, "So you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice." <sup>38</sup> Pilate said to him, "What is truth?"

After he had said this, he went back outside to the Jews and told them, "I find no guilt in him. <sup>39</sup> But you have a custom that I should release one man for you at the Passover. So do you want me to release to you the King of the Jews?" <sup>40</sup> They cried out again, "Not this man, but Barabbas!" Now Barabbas was a robber.

Jesus' "kingship" was:

- **Foolishness** to the Romans
- **An Offense** to the Jews

### Principle #4:

When Christ is just our co-pilot...our accomplice...a God who always supports our plans...we will eventually revolt when things go south. We'll conclude He isn't enough. And this counterfeit god will begin to turn on us.