

the TAKE HOME 11.22.15

Today's Scripture Passage: John 18:15-18, 25-27; 21:15-19

Pgs 766-770 Pew Bible

15 Simon Peter and another disciple were following Jesus. Because this disciple was known to the high priest, he went with Jesus into the high priest's courtyard, **16** but Peter had to wait outside at the door. The other disciple, who was known to the high priest, came back, spoke to the girl on duty there and brought Peter in. **17** "You are not one of his disciples, are you?" the girl at the door asked Peter. He replied, "I am not." **18** It was cold, and the servants and officials stood around a fire they had made to keep warm. Peter also was standing with them, warming himself.

25 As Simon Peter stood warming himself, he was asked, "You are not one of his disciples, are you?" He denied it, saying, "I am not." **26** One of the high priest's servants, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, challenged him, "Didn't I see you with him in the olive grove?" **27** Again Peter denied it, and at that moment a rooster began to crow.

15 When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you truly love me more than these?" "Yes, Lord," he said, "you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my lambs." **16** Again Jesus said, "Simon son of John, do you truly love me?" He answered, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Take care of my sheep." **17** The third time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, "Do you love me?" He said, "Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my sheep. **18** I tell you the truth, when you were younger you dressed yourself and went where you wanted; but when you are old you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go." **19** Jesus said this to indicate the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God. Then he said to him, "Follow me!"

Questions for Reflection & Discussion

1. Peter was given ample opportunity to "own" his relationship to Jesus. Why do you think he didn't?
2. Matt. 26:75, Mark 14:72 and Lk.22:62 tell us what happened to Peter when the rooster crowed. Why do you think Peter reacted this way?
3. Have you ever betrayed someone or something you believed in. What was the outcome of that?
4. Do you think Jesus asked Peter about his love in front of the other disciples or from them? Why?
5. Why was this interchange between Jesus and Peter important to Peter? the other disciples? You?
6. What is the importance and the impact of Jesus' exact words to Peter, "Follow me?" What does that say to us about "Life after Failure?"

Prayer

1. Pray that we would receive forgiveness and restoration and move forward beyond despair, hopelessness, and the temptation to quit in the wake of our failures.
2. Pray for our leaders and the transition process here at Crossroads.
3. Pray that world leaders might have the wisdom and courage required to fight terrorism.
4. Pray for those who've been victimized by terrorism.