

MARK 14:53-72 "VISITS FROM THE 'OLD MAN'"

My Jr. High years were surrounded in turmoil. I missed a lot of it and it was there that I learned how cruel kids can be. My frail physical condition didn't allow me to participate in any Physical education activities.

I was a verbal punching bag!

High school didn't start too much better for I missed half my freshman year with eye operations and more physical challenges. A bright spot was my "SHORT STORIES" teacher Mr. Wendt. **He was a good teacher.** Besides I always liked short stories because you got them over with much faster. Just like shopping for 1 item from an ad. **IN AND OUT** BABY and that's more than a hamburger.

All stories provide a Situation... complication... crisis... climax and resolution.

I learned that almost all stories have a **protagonist** (good guy) and **antagonist** (bad guy). When you follow the story line of characters you will soon discover if they are **static** characters or **dynamic** characters.

Static CHARACTER... as defined by the meaning of the word, doesn't change... doesn't learn from their mistakes... they continue to repeat them.

Dynamic CHARACTER ... on the other hand a dynamic character, **YES THEY MAKE MISTAKES**, but they learn from them and don't repeat them.

I think Christians are often times the same way... **Static or dynamic. Which are you?**

In our text today it seems the Holy Spirit wants us to hone in on a character that grabs the attention of all 4 **gospel writers**. Who is this guy?

Peter **The Bible is full of Peter!** No disciple is spoke of as much or as often as Peter. Jesus spoke to Peter more than any other disciple.

Peter received more **STERN REBUKES** than any other disciple.

Peter was the only disciple who risked **REBUKING JESUS...**

Impulsive, loud, opinionated, fearless and pretty self reliant.

Acts 4:13 (Not highly educated) Fisherman

The list of disciples is found in a different order in all **4** gospels... **but Peter is first on every one.** Safe to say he was the most prominent of the 12.

Rebuked by Jesus Matt. 16:21-23 From that time Jesus began to show to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day. Then Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, "Far be it from You, Lord; this shall not happen to You!" But He turned and said to Peter, "Get behind Me, Satan! You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men."

Transfiguration (Matt. 17:1-9) "Lord, it is good for us to be here: let us make three tabernacles" Peter just keep quiet and enjoy the moment.

Denied foot washing John 13:6 Then He came to Simon Peter. And Peter said to Him, "Lord, are You washing my feet?" 7 Jesus answered and said to him, "What I am doing you do not understand now, but you will know after this." Peter said to Him, "You shall never wash my feet!" Jesus answered him, "If I do not wash you, you have no part with Me." (Never say never or always unless it's a compliment) **OK DO THE WHOLE THING!**

Great victory... Just a few days earlier in Caesarea Philippi... pretty much the last stop for Jesus before making His way to Jerusalem to die He posed the question to His disciples... **Matthew 16... 13** "Who do the people say the Son of Man is?" 14 So they said, "Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." 15 He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" 16 Simon Peter answered and said, **"You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."** 17 Jesus answered and said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and

blood has not revealed *this* to you, but My Father who is in heaven. 18 And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. 19 And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."

Did pride enter into Peter's heart? Did his feelings of **self sufficiency** grow to an unhealthy level?

Because a short time later... in John 13:33 Jesus says, "Little children, I shall be with you a little while longer. You will seek Me; and as I said to the Jews, 'Where I am going, you cannot come,' so now I say to you. 34 A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; **More than just your neighbor... and not just as you love yourself but** as I have loved you, that you also love one another. 35 By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

36 Simon Peter said to Him, "Lord, where are You going?" **You gotta love this guy... he skips the whole Love one another as I have loved you... LORD WHERE ARE YOU GOING?**

Jesus answered him, "Where I am going you cannot follow Me now, but you shall follow Me afterward." 37 Peter said to Him, "Lord, why can I not follow You now? **Lord it's me Peter! You know the one you can really count on... It's me, "You are the Christ the Son of the living God", If anybody should or could go, make it me. I will lay down my life for Your sake."** 38 Jesus answered him, "Will you lay down your life for My sake? (**Peter, you got the last one right but you must rely and depend on me not in yourself.**) Most assuredly, **Most assuredly... Verily, verily... truly truly, amen amen Attention... may I have your attention please... Peter...** I say to you, the rooster shall not crow till you have denied Me three times. **PRAY**

The travesty of INHUMAN injustice has just begun... Jesus and the disciples have left the upper room... past the brook Kidron... where residuals from the blood of 200,000 Passover lambs was flowing by... to the Garden of Gethsemane... **sleeping disciples** have already checked out on Jesus when a "**TOUR DE FORCE**" arrives: 600 peace keeping soldiers from the fortress Antonio; the betrayer Judas is in tow. Jesus greets them, "who are you seeking?" Jesus of Nazareth... **"I AM HE "** They fall down... **practicing**


for the future when every knee will bow... get back up... “Who are you seeking” uh Jesus of Nazareth... That’s me... “These aren’t the disciples you are looking for”... let them go. **PETER CAN’T TAKE IT!!!** pulls a sword and cuts the ear off Malcus... **Peter!**... Jesus puts the ear back on... not this way Peter... I willingly give my life! **the disciples scattered like cock roaches when the lights goes on. Somebody grabbed Mark’s coat and he ran off naked.**

We pick up in Mark 14 verse 53 And they led Jesus away to the high priest; and with him were assembled all the chief priests, the elders, and the scribes. **John mentions “They bound Him” I add...** He let them bind Him... I’m sure God had to calm down the Angels as they wanted to bust some heads... We know it was His love for us that bound Him... **FOR JESUS WENT WILLINGLY. Like a lamb to the slaughter.**

Mark doesn't record for us the appearance of Jesus before Annas, **the father-in-law of the high priest**, but moves directly to the courtyard of Caiaphis, the current high priest

The Sanhedrin, **70** in number, took their places in an elevated semicircle around Jesus. To the left and the right were court clerks, prepared to take notes on the evidence submitted.


Presiding was Joseph Caiaphas, high priest and president of the **Sanhedrin**. He was an unusually powerful high priest who would serve for **19** years, far beyond the average term of **4** years. His surname “**Caiaphas**” or “**inquisitor**” fit him well, as he was now presiding over the most **infamous inquisition** in history. I say inquisition because this was no trial... this kangaroo court will break ever Jewish law written regarding a legal trial.

 According to Jewish law a prisoner could not be sentenced on the same day as His trial...

 The accused was never to be called upon to incriminate himself

 It was illegal to make a final judgment at night

 It was illegal to do so outside the sacred chambers in the Temple

 a capital offense was **not** to be determined during Passover

Mark will masterfully take us back and forth between 2 scenes happening at the same time in close proximity to one another... so here is our first scene switch

Verse 54 But **Peter** followed Him at a **DISTANCE**, right into the courtyard of the high priest. And he sat with the servants and warmed himself at the fire.

COURSON Peter was cold not only physically but spiritually—which would lead to his denial of Christ altogether. Was there a time when you were following the Lord with a “front-row” mentality before your schedule filled with hobbies and activities to the point that now you’re following Him “afar off”? Peter became so cold that he sought to warm himself by the enemy’s fire. So, too, your desire to warm yourself by the fires of the old gang or your old haunts will be proportionate to the distance you have allowed between yourself and the Lord.

Now they began their charade, looking first for the unanimous evidence from two witnesses which was necessary for conviction of a capital offense.

55 Now the chief priests and all the council sought testimony against Jesus to put Him to death, but found none. **56** For many bore false witness against Him, but their testimonies did not agree. *It is hard to lie in concert, much harder than telling the truth.* **57** Then some rose up and bore false witness against Him, saying, **58** “We heard Him say, ‘I will destroy this temple made with hands, and within three days I will build another made without hands.’” **59** But not even then did their testimony agree. **Jesus, as recorded in John 2:19, spoke clearly of the temple of His body. The words of Jesus' false accusers - "this temple made with hands" were never uttered by Jesus. Essentially, they accused Jesus of being a terrorist who wanted to destroy the temple.**

AS LANE NOTES!!! “The accusation was utterly serious, for throughout the Graeco-Roman world the destruction or desecration of places of worship was regarded as a capital offense.”

MORGAN ON THEIR ACCUSATION: “This is the most diabolical form of untruth, because it is an untruth in which there is an element of truth. We remember Tennyson's words: ‘A lie that is all a lie, may be met and fought outright; But a lie

that is partly the truth, is a harder matter to fight."

60 And the high priest stood up in the midst and asked Jesus, saying, "Do You answer nothing? What *is it* these men testify against You?" **61** But He kept silent and answered nothing. *Jesus could have mounted a magnificent defense here, calling forth all the various witnesses to His deity, power and character. The people He taught, the people He healed, the dead risen, the blind who see, even the demons themselves testified to His deity. Fulfilling yet another prophetic declaration regarding the Messiah... Isaiah 53:7 But Jesus opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so He opened not His mouth*

Again the high priest asked Him, saying to Him, "Are You the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?"

Bruce "the high priest arose from his seat and advanced into the semi-circle of the council towards Jesus - the action of an irritated, baffled man."

Things were not going well and Caiaphas was ticked off! **Matthew says** that he put Jesus under oath by the living God when he asked, "Tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God." Caiaphas was asking him **2** questions: if he was the Messiah, and if he was God, for "Son of the Blessed" is used exclusively in the New Testament for God.

62 Jesus said, "I am. And you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Power, and coming with the clouds of heaven." **Jesus is informing him of His own destiny.**

63 Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, "What further need do we have of witnesses? **64** You have heard the blasphemy! What do you think?" And they all condemned Him to be deserving of death. **A CLEAR PROCLAMATION OF DEITY!**

- He asked for and accepted worship as God. (Matt. 8:2; John 9:35-39) Only God can receive worship
- Paul Said He was God Phil. 2:9-11... every Knee shall bow!" Titus 2:13
- Writer of Hebrews (Heb. 1:8) "Thy throne oh God"
- Peter (Matthew 16:16) "You are the Christ"

- Doubting Thomas (John 20:28) “My Lord and my God”

William Biederwolf “*A man who can read the New Testament and not see that Christ claims to be more than a man can look all over the sky at high noon on a cloudless day and not see the sun.*”

65 Then some began to spit on Him, and to blindfold Him, and to beat Him, and to say to Him, “**Prophesy!**” And the officers struck Him with the palms of their hands.

“Prophesy!”: **HOW GLORIOUSLY IRONIC!** As they are demanding He prophesy, a prophesy he gave just hours before is being fulfilled outside with Peter’s denials.

Some of the venerable body began to spit on him, the grossest of personal insults. **Not only the ultimate in insult but wholly illegal.** (*Numbers 12:14 - Then the Lord said to Moses, “If her father had but spit in her face, would she not be shamed seven days? Let her be shut out of the camp seven days, and afterward she may be received again.”, Deuteronomy 25:9 - then his brother’s wife shall come to him in the presence of the elders, remove his sandal from his foot, spit in his face, and answer and say, ‘So shall it be done to the man who will not build up his brother’s house.’*).

Isaiah 50:6 - I gave My back to those who struck Me, And My cheeks to those who plucked out the beard; I did not hide My face from shame and spitting.

WOW, WHAT LOVE AND FORBEARANCE NOT TO FRY THESE GUYS. HOW SHOULD THIS AFFECT US?

We should bravely bear pain and humiliation for the sake of Jesus ourselves. "How ready should we be to hear slander and ridicule for Jesus' sake. Do not get into a huff, and think it a strange thing that people should mock at you. Who are you, dear sir? Who are you? What can you be if compared with Christ? If they spat upon him, why should they not spit upon you? If they buffeted him, why should they not buffet you? Shall your Master have all the rough of it? Shall he have all the bitter, and you all the sweet? A pretty soldier you, to demand better fare than your Captain!" (Spurgeon)

We should actively pursuit giving Jesus our worship and praise Spurgeon said, "How earnestly, next, ought we to honor our dear Lord. If men were so eager to put him to shame, let us be ten times more earnest to bring him glory. Is there anything we can do today by which he may be honored? Let us set about it. Can we make any sacrifice? Can we perform any difficult task which would glorify him? Let us not deliberate, but at once do it with our might. Let us be **inventive in modes of glorifying**

him, even as his adversaries were ingenious in the methods of his shame."

SIMULTANEOUSLY OCCURRING!!! 66 Now as Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant girls of the high priest came. **67** And when she saw Peter warming himself, she looked at him and said, "You also were with Jesus of Nazareth."

68 But he denied it, saying, "I neither know nor understand what you are saying." And he went out on the porch, and a rooster crowed. **Mark wanted us also to see that while Jesus was suffering abuse for his deliberate Messianic claim, Peter was deliberately denying him.**

69 And the servant girl saw him again, and began to say to those who stood by, "This is *one* of them." **Trapp** "A silly wench daunteth and dispiriteth this stout champion."

Courage brought Peter to the courtyard... His life was in danger... but now his courage is gone.

70 But he denied it again. And a little later those who stood by said to Peter again, "Surely you are *one* of them; for you are a Galilean, and your speech shows *it*." **71** Then he began to curse and swear, "I do not know this Man of whom you speak!" **Fishermen were known to cuss like "Sailors". When their nets got tangled at the bottom of the sea... they were known to LET IT FLY.** Peter has hit bottom, Peter is tangled up in his own pride and sin, and it all came back to him.

Visits from the old man. Scary... I didn't know that was still in there?

When we are away from the Lord... We don't laugh as hard as we once did; we don't enter in as freely as we used to because we have too much of the world to enjoy the Lord, we also have too much of the Lord to enjoy the world.

72 A second time *the* rooster crowed. Then Peter called to mind the word that Jesus had said to him, "Before the rooster crows twice, you will deny Me three times." And when he thought about it, he wept.

Courson... Due to the mess they made, roosters were not allowed in the city of Jerusalem. Therefore, a rooster's crow would have been a strange sound. But, in this case, it was an appropriate one because Peter surely had made a mess of things.

HERE IS LUKE'S RENDITION OF THIS TRAGIC HAPPENING IN PETER'S LIFE

Luke 22:60 But Peter said, "Man, I do not know what you are saying!" Immediately, while he was still speaking, the rooster crowed. 61 **And the Lord turned and looked at Peter.** Then Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how He had said to him, "Before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times." 62 **So Peter went out and wept bitterly.** the Greek word doesn't mean to shed a silent tear. Rather, it means to convulse in sorrow. At this point, as far as Peter knew, his relationship with Jesus was permanently and totally severed. As far as he knew, his sin was unpardonable. No wonder he wept.

Peter is violently confronted with his failure... he wept bitterly. **First step in restoration... repentance. Face in the dirt! Stedmen notes:** "The only difference between the denial of Peter and the hatred of the priests was the tears that Peter shed. Those tears meant there was life that could be restored; his failure could be forgotten and forgiven."

How could have Peter avoided this failure?

Peter was strong... He learned to rely on his flesh. This had to change! Trusting in the flesh is a human weakness. It's Disney theology...

You are braver than you believe, stronger than you seem, and smarter than you think.
Christopher Robin, *Winnie The Pooh*

Look inside yourself. You are more than what you have become. Mufasa's Ghost, *The Lion King*

You know the look within yourself... you can do it... self reliance!

It is this awareness of human weakness and the necessity of moment-by-moment **DEPENDENCE** which Mark was urging on the Church.

Stedmen... "When I look at Christianity today, I am sometimes appalled at the degree that we depend upon the flesh."

Hudson Taylor said, "God chose me because I was weak enough. He trains somebody to be quiet enough, and little enough, and then uses him. As the beloved Vance Havner put it: "The Lord had the strength and I had the weakness, **so we teamed up!** It was an unbeatable combination."

God gives grace to those who renounce dependence upon self and depend upon him. How else did the Reformer Thomas Cranmer, who under duress was forced to write recantations of his faith, stand late in the Great St. Mary's Oxford and renounce his recantations, promising that if he must be burned, the hand which wrote them would burn first? And when he did die at the stake, he held his hand in the flames until his life was gone. How else did he do this but by dependence upon Christ?

Armando Valladares, who spent twenty-two years in Castro's prisons, records how Christian prisoners before firing squads regularly shout, "Viva Cristo Rey!" (Long Live Christ the King!) Officials have begun to gag their victims before execution lest the guards begin to think. Only dependence on God can accomplish this.

One author I read wrote... "How else can a man or woman live out a consistent Christian life in the city or the suburbs except through the renunciation of self-dependence and the cultivation of conscious dependence on God? It has always been the same. It was so when Gideon ritually divested himself of natural power and went on to defeat the Midianites (Judges 7). It was the same when King David announced his God-dependence to the doomed Goliath: "David said to the Philistine, 'You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the Lord Almighty, the God of armies of Israel, whom you have defied'" (1 Samuel 17:45)."

We have all made promises to Jesus that we have not kept; when that is the case, there is an appropriate time to weep bitterly - but then a time to come back to Jesus, who will always receive you back.

There is a significant contrast between Judas and Peter. Judas Static... didn't learn. Peter Dynamic... learned and became one of the greatest men who ever lived. Both of them denied Jesus in one way or another, but one was restored and the other was not. Restoring Peter was important to Jesus; after His resurrection, Jesus had a private meeting with Peter (Luke 24:34) and a public restoration with Peter (John 21).

Bottom line church... be a dynamic Christian and when you sin, repent and go and sin no more. Stop warming yourselves by the fire of the enemies of God. Come back to Jesus and be restored and forgiven.