

“Peter Fails” • John 18:1–27

Mt. Lassen Community Church • April 26, 2026

Intro • What brings the “worst” out of you? Fear, pain, hunger, loss, sleeplessness, being taken advantage of, seeing someone mistreated...?

THE LESSON OF THE “I AM”

18:1 • Gethsemane, the “oil press” often pictures Jesus’ “pressing” in the garden, choosing to take up His “cup” of suffering. Also under pressure: the disciples!

Vs 2–4 • They came to arrest Jesus, but He takes charge

Vs 5 • Jesus doesn’t hide His identity

Vs 6 • But when He says, “I am [he]” they fall back

Is Jesus claiming the name “I AM” to Himself? Linguistically: not really. This is normal Greek. But as He unleashes power and knocks them over, *He is clearly identifying Himself as the “I AM”!*

Vs 7–9 • Why does Jesus do this? → _____

Lesson • On our worst days, we can _____ God

Discuss • Jesus is in control at the Garden and even displays His power, but the disciples “lose it.” In our times of crisis, what does this teach us?

THE LESSON OF THE EAR

Vs 10 • The disciples have two swords (see Luke 22:32–28). Simon proves to be a poor swordsman, slicing the slave’s ear (Malchus).

Vs 11 • Jesus rebukes Peter. Luke 22:50–51 fills in two important details:

(1) It was only a _____ of Malchus’ ear; the _____

(2) Jesus _____ His ear, but few _____!

Lessons in the ear lobe:

(1) God cares about the _____ details of our lives.

(2) Theologically, no one could suffer on Jesus’ _____. He had to bear all the weight of dying as our sacrifice.

THE LESSONS AT THE FIRE

Vs 12–14 • Two High Priests? _____

Vs 15 • Unlike John, Peter followed Jesus “at a distance” (Matt. 26:58)

Vs 16 • John brings Peter in...

Lesson: Be more like John, less like Peter _____

Vs 17 • Peter rebuffs the girl at the door but denies Christ! *Jeff’s theory: This is certainly not the kind of attack Peter was expecting. He might have been ready to fight soldiers for Jesus, but not a slave girl. This faith–attack caught him off guard.*

Discuss • How does satan catch us with sneaky temptations?

Vs 18 • Peter warms himself at the enemy’s charcoal fire _____

Vs 19–24 • Jesus & the Priests _____

Vs 25–27 • Peter denies Jesus 2 more times. He must keep up the lie! Luke 22:61 says at that moment, the rooster crows *and Jesus turns and looks at Peter!*

Lesson: Even on our worst days, Jesus _____

BIG TAKEAWAY • In the flesh, we are like Peter, but we can walk in the Spirit and let Jesus keep it in control, reflecting and imitating Him!