

MARK — Navigating Faith & Fear

Mother's Day Panel

Mark 14:66-72

While Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant girls of the high priest came by. When she saw Peter warming himself, she looked closely at him.

"You also were with that Nazarene, Jesus," she said.

But he denied it. "I don't know or understand what you're talking about," he said, and went out into the entryway.

When the servant girl saw him there, she said again to those standing around, "This fellow is one of them." Again he denied it.

After a little while, those standing near said to Peter, "Surely you are one of them, for you are a Galilean."

He began to call down curses, and he swore to them, "I don't know this man you're talking about."

Immediately the rooster crowed the second time. Then Peter remembered the word Jesus had spoken to him: "Before the rooster crows twice you will disown me three times." And he broke down and wept.

The New International Version (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2011), Mk 14:66–72.

Contextual Observations

Laura

- Jesus gently in his omniscient wisdom allowed Peter to lie and betray and yet guide him to where he needed to be for his character to develop.

Hannah

- How much God knows — God knows and chooses us even when he knows that we will betray him and fail him, and that he will gently redeem us.

Marcia

- God is not surprised. Peter was surprised. Peter couldn't imagine a world in which he would fail in this way, and yet God knew all along.
- Seeing Peter weep reveals the cognitive dissonance between who we think we are and who we really are, and his lament reveals that for me. Reminds me of Romans 5:8 — Christ died for us while we were still sinners. Not the cleaned up version of us, the messy version.

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

The New International Version (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2011), Rom 5:8.

Sandy

- God is bigger than I think or know, and I don't want to impose the limit of my understanding on who God is.

Angie

- In chapter 12, I noticed that God is merciful and compassionate, and linking back to Deuteronomy how he is slow to anger and abounding in love, I could feel God's mercy through the passage even though you don't directly see it referenced.

“Now may the Lord’s strength be displayed, just as you have declared: ‘The Lord is slow to anger, abounding in love and forgiving sin and rebellion

The New International Version (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2011), Nu 14:17–18a.

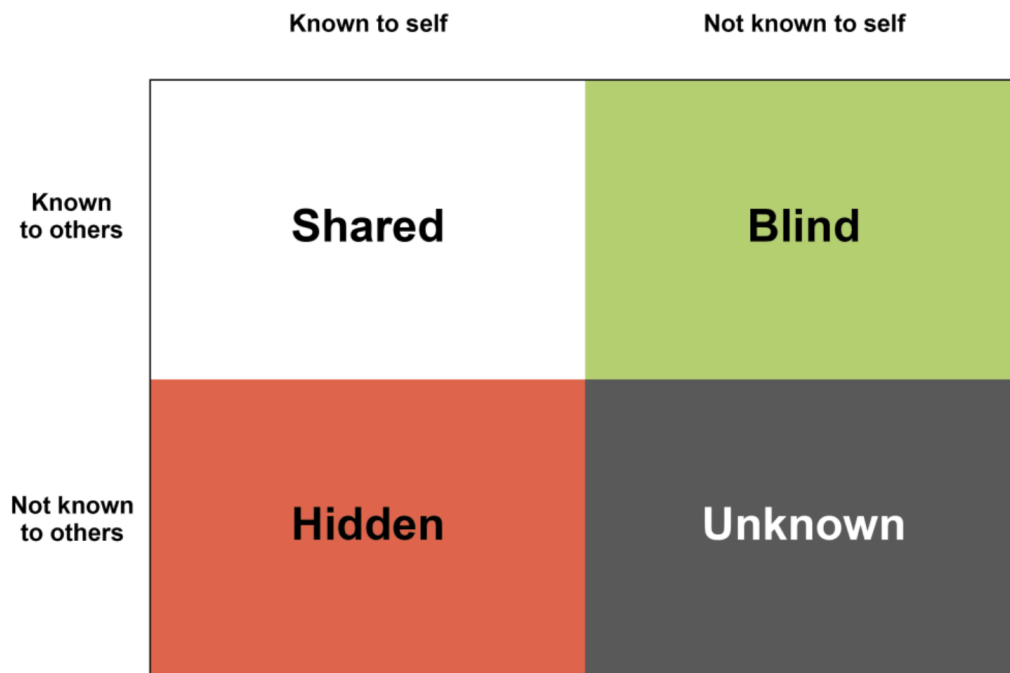
What Do You Observe About Peter & Fear?

Angie

- Peter is alone and confused

Sandy

- We have models of awareness (Johari’s window) of ourselves and how others perceive us. Peter thought he knew himself, but God truly knew him.



Marcia

- SOAP allowed me to see this from different angles and read it from different perspectives. I could relate with Peter! I had a deep empathy of him because of how he thought of how people think of him and giving into that fear of man.
- Peter let the potential opinions and fear of man drive a wedge between him and God. This is heavy because sometimes stepping out can lead to exposure and the unknown. I too place too high a value on how people think and perceive of me and how I feel about that. I'm not alone in this. Peter felt alone, I have felt alone, but I can rest that we are not alone in God as he relates to us in our humanity.

Hannah

- I can relate to how powerful and strong fear can be, especially when we're not prepared for it. He reacted out of instinct and fear. For me, the turning point when struggling with fear is when I realize that fear is in control. The rooster crow was like the turning point for Peter and how he began to see that he was under fear's grip.

Laura

- I couldn't get past the fear and faith issue and how many times like Peter, when we're faced with something like this, we get paralyzed. What caused that paralyzation of Peter? Peter was just robbed of the ability to trust anymore. He just witnessed his beloved leader and friend get betrayed by another trusted friend; his life was falling apart before his eyes.

What Is One Thing From This Passage That is a Practical Application?

Laura

- It's a choice — I could do what I have to do in a crisis and then melt down later. But I want to do this better in crisis, saying, "Jesus, Help!" But I can't practice this application in the moment, so I need to abide and continually do this in the word. I'm not looking forward to the next fear crisis, but I want to spend time now practicing asking Jesus to help me.

Hannah

- Making a constant and conscious choice to trust Jesus more than the source of the fear. “Jesus, replace my fear with the opposite of that.”

Marcia

- The need to regularly be in proximity to God. There is no overcoming the fear without being close to him. One way we can do that is to have his word in our hearts. It reminded me of Ephesians 6:13, to take on the full armor of God. It's everything we know that we should be clothed with ahead of time.

Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.

The New International Version (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2011), Eph 6:13.

Sandy

- Navigating between fear and faith is having to take the next step in faith because God doesn't reveal everything all at once. In God's wisdom, he gives us the next step and the next step after that. (It can help us not get overwhelmed with too much). This was true for me in my life choosing a doctorate in psychology despite all my friends being in business. it was difficult since I was one of the few Asian American woman at the time at that field, and I was able to bring my expression of God's image and love and I could see God leading me step by step all the way there.
 - **Sandy Responds to Danielle:** As soon as our false narratives start spinning in my head, I have to start interrogating that by asking, “Is this Jesus' narrative or is this mine? Is my narrative spiritually darkened?”

Angie

- Jesus gave Peter a clue and I can see that God orchestrates these things for my good. In my role as a mom, I see how Peter was pointed out for being different from the rest of the Jews, and when I look at my kids, they'll be pointed out for being

Christians because they'll be different from the culture. How do I raise my kids to not let that hardship define their lives? I want to pass on that fortitude to my children.

- **Laura responds to Angie:** God's compassion and protection was with Peter. Peter was clearly a Galilean and he deserved to be arrested.
- Peter goes on to be a witness! This failure point isn't the end, and he receives the Holy Spirit that we also share!

Danielle

- Laura said, "Jesus help!" and before in the story, Peter could have totally done that, but he didn't. There is such a tendency for us to be in denial; we have blindspots, but the Gospel really allows us to be seen by God and for us to see ourselves more fully. The Gospel reveals how decrepit we really are and how generous God's grace is to deliver us from those blind spots, our sin.
- The fear was living three to four steps ahead in Peter's mind. "If this slave girl tells someone, they'll tell someone and I'll be beaten with Jesus, and I don't want that." Contrary to that, if we see ourselves cultivating fear three to four steps ahead, what does surrender to God look like in my next step?

What Else Should We Know?

Angie

Sandy

Marcia

- It's easy to look at this as a historical thing that happened, and it's a danger to not let the power of this passage not go deep in our lives. What is the overall theme of God's love and what he's doing apply to us? SOAP as a tool can help us to see biblical passages through different perspectives.

Hannah

- One thing that occurred to me that was crucial in all of this and putting our trust in Jesus and turning away from fear is rooted in our identity being anchored in Jesus. That's where that trust is cultivated from.

Laura

- If something hits you today, you can understand this like a watercolour painting that God is beginning. A few splashes of paint represent the warning to Peter. A few more splashes of paint are Peter's denial. And even yet more paint can reveal to us Peter's restoration and Peter being the rock to build the new church. The picture comes together in stages of God's beautiful, loving, compassionate restoration.



In Navigating Fear & Faith In Your Life: What is one practical thing that you've heard that you want to respond to? We don't just teach to know, but we also teach to obey.