

Rooster Warnings

I. Slide1 Announce:

- A. Slide2-6 Larry: 3rd-5th Camp. HS Camp. Mothers Day. Com Work Day. Being Mortal
- B. Slide7 Prayer Tonight: 6:30pm
- C. Slide8 Laster Interview/Bulgaria: Matt & Jessica.

II. Slide9 Intro: Rooster Warnings

- A. Slide10 Back in 1975, an angry man rushed through the Rijks (RIkes) Museum in Amsterdam until he reached **Rembrandt's** famous painting *Nightwatch*. Then he took out a knife and slashed it repeatedly before he could be stopped. 3 years before that, a distraught, hostile man slipped into *St. Peter's Cathedral* in Rome with a hammer and began to smash **Michelangelo's** beautiful sculpture The **Pieta** (PeeA-ta). Two cherished works of art were severely damaged. But what did officials do? Throw them out and forget about them? **Absolutely not!** Using the *best experts*, who worked with *the utmost care and precision*, they made every effort to **restore** the **treasures**.
 1. You & I, *and Peter*, are of *much more value* than these works of art. **And God**, using His best experts...*grace, love, & forgiveness*, work with *the utmost care and precision*, to make every effort to **restore us again**.
- B. Prayer: TY Lord, *broken lives are why You died on Calvary*. You love restoring, repairing, reconditioning, rehabilitating, & rebuilding *splintered* lives.

III. Slide11 **JESUS, THE ROCK THAT NEVER CRACKED(57-68)** *Peter the Rock that Crumbled*

- A. Here we the most famous trial in human history.
 1. **He** was tried before **the world & the world** was tried before **Him**.
- B. Here we have a scene that would be likened unto: *A Sheep...being led away by a pack of hungry hyenas, to stand trial & conviction before a jury of starving coyotes & a blood thirsty wolf/judge*.
- C. Slide12 This trial was in 2 sets of 3 stages (Jewish trial & Roman trial).

1. Jewish Trial. 1st tried by Annas (former *high priest*); then moved to the full council (depicted here); then to an early morning session for the final vote of condemnation. 27:1
 2. Roman Trial. 1st to Pilate; then moved to Herod; then back to Pilate.
- D. Slide13,14 We visit Caiaphas House in Israel. it's known as *Church of St. Gallicantu*, L. The Cock Crows. [2 pics: Proximity to Gethsemane. The hole/prison where Christ was kept]
- E. (60) 2 witnesses - fulfilled the letter of the law, but in *lying* they broke both the letter & the spirit of the law.
- F. (61) It was a serious matter to speak against *the Temple*.
1. This same charge is what led to the death of Steven (Acts 6:13) *They also set up false witnesses who said, This man does not cease to speak blasphemous words against this holy place and the law.*
 2. So, did Jesus say this? Yep. They were citing Jn.2:19 (early in Jesus ministry).
 - a) Slide15 But of course context is important. Jn.2:19-22 *Jesus answered and said to them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." 20 Then the Jews said, "It has taken 46 years to build this temple, and will You raise it up in three days?" 21 But He was speaking of the temple of His body. 22 Therefore, when He had risen from the dead, His disciples remembered that He had said this to them.*
- G. (63) *I put You under oath by the living God: Tell us if You are the Christ, the Son of God.*
1. Now he had to answer according to law. So He does before His *Kangaroo Court*
 - a) As Prisoner, He said nothing. As Judge, He will say *much*.
- H. (64) And now was the right time for him to reveal Himself plainly... *I AM!* (Mk 14:62)
1. Jesus couldn't **deny** being the Messiah, the Son of God...yet couldn't really **explain** it to these worldly men.
 2. Jesus applied *Himself* to 2 OT Messianic Prophecies:
 - a) Slide16,17 Ps.110:1 *The LORD said to my Lord, Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool.*
 - b) Dan.7:13 *I was watching in the night visions, And behold, One like the Son of Man, Coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days, And they brought Him near before Him.*

- (1) In these 2 quotes He predicts: *His Res, Ascension, & His return in Glory.*
- (2) This means **salvation** to those who Trust Him, Yet **condemnation** to those like Caiaphas.

I. The **Rock** of our Salvation...did not crack.

J. Jesus stood Rock-Solid.

1. Guilty of only 1 thing, *Guilty of love in the 1st degree.*
2. For **us** to stand the same we must live in *profound moment-by-moment dependence* upon the Father.
 - a) *Slide18* Paul summed it up best, *for my power is made perfect in weakness...For when I am weak, then I am strong.* 1 Cor.12:9,10
 - (1) Vance Havner said, The Lord had the strength & I had the weakness, so we teamed up. It was an unbeatable combination.
 - (2) Hudson Taylor said, God choose me because I was **weak enough**. He trains somebody to be **quiet enough**, & then uses him.

IV. *Slide19* **PETER, THE ROCK THAT CRUMBLED (69-75)** *3 strikes but not out*

A. Tonight, Peter aka **Rock** would *crumble*.

1. Peter was known as **the rock**. The Gibraltar of the disciples. Yet, the rock was not w/o its cracks.
 - a) *Slide20a* *Hairline fissures* lead to *crumbling* under pressure & Christ had detected **the crack** in Peter's character.

B. Peter ready to fight outside, inside trembled before this saucy servant girl.

C. How could such a dedicated disciple fall so hard, fail so miserable, & disown allegiance to the one he loved?

1. That answer is important to us because if *the Apex of Apostles* can fall...**then** so can you & I.
2. *Slide20b* The answer is simply laid out in Luke 22:31,32 *Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat. 32 But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren.*

3. Ken Gire says, Tonight into those hands Peter would fall. Satan wants to thresh his faith & beat it into the ground until the husk breaks open. Then he'll show the world what's really inside Peter's heart. And once the other disciples see this, the backbone of the revolution will be as good as crushed.
 4. It's healthy for me to remind myself of who/what I'd effect if I fell!
 - a) My wife, my children's respect, my character, my reputation, my example, my credibility. My church friends, my church I get to serve at, other ministry opportunities, serving on other boards, chaplaincy, community embarrassment, & especially...*the shame I would give to the name of my Lord.*
 5. *What would you lose?...Count the cost...please.* I've had to add up the tally *too late* with too many friends over the years.
 6. *Note the 3 players: Satan sifts. Christ prays. You return...after you blow it.*
- D. *Slide21 (70) Denied again-* Ask not, *Lord, have I've denied You?* **But** ask, *in how many areas of my life have I denied you? In how many ways? In how many different times?* Ken Gire prayer; pg103
1. *When I'm too busy to pray, I deny* that You are the center of my life
 2. *When I neglect Your Word, I deny* that you are competent to guide me.
 3. *When I worry, I deny* that you are Lord of my circumstances.
 4. *When I turn my head from the hungry & the homeless, I deny* that you are a God of mercy who has put me here to be your hands & your feet.
 5. *When I steal something from another person to enrich or enhance my life – whether that be something material or some credit that is rightly due another, which I have claimed for myself - I deny* you are the source of all blessings.
 - a) *Yes, we deny him daily.*
- E. (74) *Curse* - He was saying, *“Let me be under a curse if I am not telling the truth.”*
1. *Swear* - Means to swear an oath, as one does in court. *[a formal, legal, denial]*
- F. *Slide22a* Read about *The Look* – Lk.22:61,62 *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.*

1. **It doesn't say**, Jesus uttered any words like *Peter, Peter, Peter*.
It doesn't say, He shook His head in **disgust**.
It doesn't say, He lowered His head in **disappointment**.
It doesn't say, He said, *I told you so!*

- a) ***Instead** it's a look of sympathetic understanding from **the 1** who understood better than all, what it was to fall into *Satan's sifting hands* for 40 days in a barren desert.
- b) ***It is with *that look*** that all Peter's emotions suddenly caved in. **Like** a small dirt clod being crushed to powder in a man's hand.

G. **And he wept bitterly** – *Strengths: He thought about what he did*

1. **Slide22b** Mrk 14:72 *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.*

- a) Though Peter's fall was *terrible*, his **repentance** & subsequent **service** to Christ as recorded in Acts provides **hope** for all Christians.

H. **And he wept bitterly** – *But though it's Friday...Sunday's a comin!*

1. The night was about to turn to dawn. The winnowing was over.

- a) We learn to **eat our words** w/the **bitter herbs** of **Repentance**.
- b) **And** may we never take a dry-eyed look at **sin** again.
- c) **And wasn't it that 1st tear** down his cheek that **cleansed** his dirty soul? :)

2. All that was left was **a naked kernel of faith**. - A small **grain** but grain nonetheless. **A grain** Satan couldn't touch. Oh he can touch **the chaff** that he asks for...**but** not the **Grain**. The **grain** belongs to the Lord & He **will** bring it into His granaries

I. **Think about it...**How can we criticize Peter...when Jesus didn't?

1. Jesus never gave him up! *I have prayed for you that your faith should not fail.*

J. **Peter got far**. How far would we have gotten? He failed *in the court yard* where the others dared to set foot. He failed, not under normal pressure, **but in** Satan's own heavy winnowing pressure.

1. **Ps:** Let's remember it was Satan doing the **sifting**, **not Jesus**. Jesus was doing the **praying**.

2. Matter of fact Jesus **warned, looked, forgave, & would restore him, times 3 soon...** at the end of John's gospel.
 3. **Slide23a** Jesus simply asked Peter: **Do you love me?** (3 x's...not to rub it in, **but once for each denial**)
 - a) He give Peter an opportunity to openly confess his love.
 - b) Jesus is not there to **inflict pain**, **He is there to relieve it.**
 - c) He had seen Peter's bitter tears of repentance.
 4. **News Flash:** *Jesus doesn't sit in heaven sharpening His **red pencil** to jot down every time we fall on our face.*
 - a) **Slide23b** Peter tells us years later, *Love covers a multitude of sin.* 1 Pet.4:8
 - b) *Where did he learn that? Right here on the Galilee's beach, where Jesus picked him up & dusted him off (or ringed him out/wet).*
 - c) *You've been there too, haven't you? You've failed Him. You've fallen & eaten some sand.*
- K. **Slide23c** *Jesus wants **neither Regret** (involves just the **mind**); **nor Remorse** (involves the **mind & emotions...we feel terrible**); **but Repentance** (involves the changing of the **mind**; the changing of the **emotions**; **AND** the changing of the **will i.e. turning away from sin**)
1. **One failure doesn't make a flop. He is the God of a second chance.**
 2. **At Pentecost, Peter wielded a different sword, a *spiritual* sword (the Word of the Spirit) and won a victory.**
 - a) And **so thankful** for being given this 2nd chance, Peter would **carry the gospel** all the way to **Rome**, where they crucified him upside down.
 - b) **What an encouragement for those who this morning have felt like *the lone coal* sitting away from the heat off by itself.** Where Jesus comes along & bumps it closer to the others **& immediately it begins to glow again.**
 3. **Statue of Peter w/Keys/Rooster. Mixture of courage/cowardice; success/failure**
- L. **4 quick Lessons from Peter:**
1. **No one, *not even a spiritual rock*, is immune to failure.**

2. God knows our precise breaking point.
3. When surrounded by wrongdoers, doing wrong comes easy.
4. The 1st step toward correction is not act like we're strong but to admit we are weak.

M. Slide24 I wonder how many *Rooster Warnings* God has put in our own barns?

1. If you've denied the Lord that bought you, look up to Him who now looks down from heaven, ready to pardon the backslider who cries w/the returning prodigal, *Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight, and am no longer worthy to be called your son.* And then thank Him...
 - a) Lord, thank you for Your divine arrests. Your Reminding Roosters. Your looks of love. Your sorrow, pity, love, & forgiveness. Your 2nd chances.