

Is Your King Safety?

In this Series, We Will Learn That...

1. Everyone has an ultimate king that they serve, and this king controls their thoughts and actions.
2. Many people who would call Jesus “Saviour” do not understand that He must also be king.

“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, ¹⁶but Peter had to wait outside at the door. The other disciple, who was known to the high priest, came back, spoke to the servant girl on duty there and brought Peter in. ¹⁷“You aren't one of this man's disciples too, are you?” she asked Peter. He replied, “I am not.” ¹⁸It 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.

¹⁹*Meanwhile, the high priest questioned Jesus about His disciples and His teaching.*

²⁰*“I have spoken openly to the world,” Jesus replied. “I always taught in synagogues or at the temple, where all the Jews come together. I said nothing in secret. ²¹Why question me? Ask those who heard me. Surely they know what I said.” ²²When Jesus said this, one of the officials nearby slapped Him in the face. “Is this the way you answer the high priest?” he demanded. ²³“If I said something wrong,” Jesus replied, “testify as to what is wrong. But if I spoke the truth, why did you strike me?” ²⁴Then Annas sent Him, bound, to Caiaphas the high priest.*

²⁵*Meanwhile, Simon Peter was still standing there warming himself. So they asked him, “You aren't one of His disciples too, 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 garden?” ²⁷Again Peter denied it, and at that moment a rooster began to crow.”*

- John 18:15-27

Peter's King... Safety through Denial

“Simon Peter and another disciple were following Jesus.”

- John 18:15

This kind of behaviour is uncharacteristic of Peter. Instead of being brash and bold, he's following at a distance.

John is identified as one of Jesus' disciples, and he seems quite comfortable being known. Why, then, is Peter so afraid?

Just getting to this point, Peter has set himself up to fail.

“Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers...”

- Psalm 1:1

Peter is hanging out in the shadows while John is with the rest of the crowd.

Peter is hanging out in the darkness, while John is following the light of the world.

The Infamous (“Peter, how could you do it?”) Denials...

1. A simple question posed by a servant girl... and Peter's reply stands in stark contrast to Christ's response in the garden.
2. “They” ask, and Peter responds more strongly.
“He denied it again, with an oath: “I don't know the man!” - Matthew 26:72
3. An eyewitness speaks up... and Peter's reply is desperate.
“Then he began to call down curses, and he swore to them, “I don't know the man!” - Matthew 26:74

The Reality of the Rooster

“Peter replied, “Man, I don't know what you're talking about!” Just as he was speaking, the rooster crowed. ⁶¹The Lord turned and looked straight at Peter. Then Peter remembered the word the Lord had spoken to him: “Before the rooster crows today, you will disown me three times.”

- Luke 22:60-61

Annas' King... Safety through Control

“Meanwhile, the high priest questioned Jesus about His disciples and His teaching.”

- John 18:19

Annas is a fairly rotten scoundrel, who was power-hungry and corrupt.

Annas “questions” Jesus on two things:

1. His Disciples – to gauge how much popular support Jesus has.
“If we let Him go on like this, everyone will believe in Him...” - John 11:48
“So the Pharisees said to one another, “See, this is getting us nowhere. Look how the whole world has gone after Him!” - John 12:19
2. His Teaching – to try to get Jesus to incriminate Himself.

Jesus' Response:

- I've taught openly and everywhere.
- Ask those who've heard me.
- Receives a slap in the face.

Jesus stands up to His questioners and denies nothing.

Peter cowers before his questioners and denies everything.

What Do We Learn?

1. Peter replaced Christ as king in his life by taking his eyes off God's plan and relying on his own abilities to lead his life.
2. The crowing of the rooster is often seen as a harsh point in history, but it's really a signal of the beginning of a new day!
3. Peter will be restored, just as anyone can be restored when they repent from placing their own king (safety?) in place of the true King.

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Peter is hanging out in the half-light, while John is following the _____ of the World.

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