

(1) How do you account for or explain Peter's three-fold denial of Jesus? How could a man who had been with Jesus for three years and had witnessed countless miracles suddenly turn against him in this way? What does this tell us about human nature? Put yourself in Peter's place and ask: "Would I have acted differently?"

(2) In the sermon I said two related things: "the only sin that can be defeated is a sin that has been forgiven," and "being right with God must precede doing right for God." Do you agree? How do these truths affect your approach to the Christian life?

(3) What do you think Peter should have done to prepare himself for what happened that night? In other words, he was facing incredible pressure and the temptation for self-preservation. So what might he have done to strengthen himself to remain faithful to Jesus? If you had been present and knew what was coming his way, what counsel or advice would you have given him?

(4) Put yourself in Peter's place and describe how you would have reacted when Jesus looked at him/you.

(5) Do you agree with me when I said that my guess is that Jesus looked at him with love and understanding and forgiveness? Or do you think there might have been something else in the eyes of Jesus? In any case, we know that Peter was devastated and wept bitterly. How was he feeling? Have you felt this way when you know you've failed the Lord? How have you dealt with that sort of conviction of sin in your life?