

Surrey Chapel Fellowship Group Notes 25th/ 26th March 2015  
**Old Failings - Peter in Jesus' last hours**

This study looks at Peter in the events preceding the crucifixion as recorded in John's Gospel. The next study looks at how Jesus restores Peter after the resurrection.

As we read through the Gospels we see opposition to Jesus and his teaching steadily increasing. Jesus resolve to head towards Jerusalem becomes increasingly clear as he puts himself on a deliberate collision course with the Jewish authorities. Things come to a head as Jesus triumphantly enters Jerusalem ahead of the Passover festival. The crowds clear him on. The rulers want rid of him. Expectations were running high that the Romans would be overthrown and the kingdom restored to the Jews. Something was going to happen. Something big. Everyone sensed it. But what?

It is with this background that our study starts. Jesus has assembled his disciples in an upper room to celebrate the passover. Jesus has just washed his disciples feet, much to Peter's initial consternation. Jesus then predicts his betrayal and in response to Peter's question, reveals the traitor to be Judas, although the disciples do not comprehend this, thinking that Judas had gone to buy supplies or give to the poor.

### **Jesus Predicts Peter's Denial John 13: 31-38**

V. 31-32 Echo Isaiah 49:3 and link Jesus' glorification to his death.

v.34-35 This commandment builds on the commands in the OT. (Leviticus 19:18 & Deuteronomy 6:5) "As I have" implies a love that is willing to lay down one's life for another.

v. 36-38 The stark truth of what Jesus says begins to dawn on Peter - but he is undaunted.

v.38 Jesus gives a shattering response. How do you think Peter felt?

Jesus then encourages and comforts his disciples and prays for them in chapters 14-17 - a passage often referred to as the farewell discourse.

### **Peter in Gethsemane John 18:10-11**

Why does Peter do what he does? What is his motivation?

Peter's sword was probably a Roman short sword designed for stabbing not slicing. Therefore Peter probably intended to kill the soldier with a lethal blow to the head, but he was able to dodge the blow suffering only the loss of an ear.

The cup that Jesus speaks of symbolises God's wrath see Psalm 75:8, Isaiah 51:17, Jeremiah 25: 15-17 and Revelation 14:10 & 16:19.

*Till on that cross, as Jesus died,  
the wrath of God was satisfied  
For every sin on Him was laid:  
here in the death of Christ I live.*

-In Christ Alone, Stuart Townend

### **Peter's First Denial John 18: 15-18**

Try to put yourself in Peter's shoes. What were they thinking and feeling? What did they expect to happen? What would you have done?

### **Peter's Further Denials John 18: 25-27**

v.25 Peter denies being one of the disciples.

v.26 Maybe this servant was seeking the man who had injured his relative...

v.27 Again Peter denies it. And the cock crows.

How did Peter feel now? Luke provides some answers 22:60-62.

How do we feel when we have let God down?

How do we respond?

### **Prayer points**

That we would love with the sort of love that Jesus demands in 13:34.

That we would have the courage to never deny Christ.