

INTRO: I had been the Sadlovsky's pastor since about 1980, when they moved back to our small town. I had instructed their 3 children in Catechism. Harvey and Janna began coming to the valley after Karen and I. The first time Janna saw us dancing, she got out her cell phone, videoed us, and sent it to her adult children. "Is this the same pastor you remember?" In this evening's sermon we shall see that human beings can exhibit some contrasting behavior. The apostle Peter will be our example.

I. BOASTING OF HIS LOYALTY TO JESUS (*read Luke 22:31-34*)

A. Professing fidelity is not a sin per se

1. God asked Israelites for loyalty at Sinai; Joshua after Moses
2. Jesus sometimes asks such (Whom do men say that I am)
3. we encourage professions at confirmation, marriage

B. Boasting about **self** can be bad

1. Rom.12:3...not to think of himself more highly than...
2. thinking thus of self may be sinful pride
3. or often esteem self above peers
4. esp. if relying on self above all for soul's salvation

C. Some examples I've heard:

- 1...can be a Christian w/o going to church (Jesus did!)
2. opposite: I know my Bible better than (yeah, erroneously)
3. here's what can happen to a boaster (*read Matt.26:69-75*)

II. DENYING THE LORD WHO WAS REDEEMING PETER

A. Got himself into the enemy's courtyard, per John

1. think about it; is this a good place to be?
2. not a sin, necessarily, but a foolish decision
3. so we, stay away from place/companion of temptation

B. Peter denied Jesus with cursing and swearing

1. did that make the maid more likely to believe Peter?
2. after the first sin, a second comes more easily

C. And this, while watching Jesus' redeeming Passion

1. as He had said: betrayed, falling away, beaten, crucified
2. and we, receive Word & Sacrament, so soon may sin
3. pronounced guilty so that we may be open to forgiveness

(continued)

III. WEeping FROM CONTRITE REPENTANCE (v.75)

A. Prompted by...

1. a rooster, reminding Peter of Jesus prior warning
2. a look from Jesus
3. all that remained was applying this to himself
4. as God needs to do with us from time to time

B. More than mere regret for having gotten caught

1. repentance is independent of being discovered, outed
- 2; contrast with Judas' despair last Wednesday night
3. Peter does not despair of forgiveness; nor do we!

C. Sincere sorrow for hurting Him Who loves, and is loved

1. denying, after having sat with Jesus at Lord's Supper
2. knowing why Jesus invites, encourages us to His Supper
3. realizing every sin as an offense against Christ
4. depth of feeling evidenced by Peter's tears

IV. RECEIVING ABSOLUTION & COMMISSION

A. Was forgiven right there in courtyard, of course

1. forgiveness is a condition, status, state
2. not something we deserve or earn by our confession
3. believer = forgiven; American = citizen w/privileges, duties

B. Needed to personally hear absolution (John 21:15-17 Galilee)

1. because one can lose faith; sin yourself into unbelief
2. human mind and emotion need the personal touch
3. conf/abs as Jesus commanded; and as we practice

C. Reinstated to service as restored sinner (feed lambs)

1. only after sins forgiven, of course
2. but always, being forgiven, resume duties of one's calling
3. service for Him, according to His word and will

CONCLUSION: I pray that you share with me a sincere desire to serve and to remain faithful to our Lord Jesus, even unto death. May God graciously preserve us in our faith in Christ Jesus. And should we ever deny our Savior by word or action or omission, may He recall us also to repentance and that full forgiveness which He has earned for us. Amen.