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BCBC Preaching

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Noise

The Noise of the Accuser and the Advocate

This week has been a tough week in many ways but one of the hardest is Tuesday was 1 year since I lost my hero my dad. It’s been somewhat hard to face tomorrow. I had one of the guys here at the church text me and said “Because He Lives, I Can Face Tomorrow.” I stopped and thought, I have been listening to the Accuser rather than trusting in my Advocate. Can we just stand and sing that song this morning? Will you consider singing it like this was the last time you will ever get to sing it?

Sing Because He Lives

Often when we get into situations in life we find ourselves listening to the Accuser. Have you ever noticed that the accuser doesn’t ever accuse us of doing anything good? He spends his time looking to tear us apart. He is trying to tear us apart from our Advocate. Because he knows that he is no match. Greater is He that is in me than he that is in the world- AMEN.

This morning I want to look at Peter, the Rock on which Jesus wanted to establish his church. The one who was sitting on ready to go with Jesus anywhere for anything against anybody. Peter had a moment where the noise of the Accuser was louder than the voice of the Advocate.

You ever been at that moment in your life, you know that you have Jesus as your Savior, but life’s situation and or circumstances seem to cause you to doubt and listen to the wrong things.

**The Accuser Awaits**

**Luke 22:31–34 (NKJV)** 31And the Lord said, “Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift *you* as wheat. 32But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to *Me,* strengthen your brethren.” 33But he said to Him, “Lord, I am ready to go with You, both to prison and to death.” 34Then He said, “I tell you, Peter, the rooster shall not crow this day before you will deny three times that you know Me.”

Think about his, all the disciples have just got through arguing with each other of who is the best and who deserved to have the greatest place next to Jesus.

Warren Wiersbe brings out this thought, “Imagine how the disciples must have felt when they heard that not only would one in their circle betray Him, but that their spokesman and leader would publicly deny Him! If a strong man like Peter was going to fail the Lord, what hope was there for the rest of them?[[1]](#footnote-1)”

Sometimes the reality is that we think more of ourselves than we should. We have a mindset that views our flesh as some superpower. Paul was clear in 1 Corinthians 2:16 that we should have the mindset of Christ so that we don’t over commit to the flesh.

Peter, Satan has asked to sift you like wheat….. Jesus knew how this would hurt, how this would be tough, how this would be so taxing, but he also knew Peter would “return to me and strengthen your brethren.”

The accuser will bring noise that will begin to sift your thoughts, make you question your purpose, he will even bring noise to question your existence…. But don’t you forget about the Advocate.

Peter’s self-confident boasting is a warning to us that none of us really knows his own heart, ass Jer. 17:9 says the heart is wicked and who can trust it, and that we can fail *in the point of our greatest strength*.

Abraham’s greatest strength was his faith, and yet his faith failed him when he went down to Egypt and lied about Sarah (Gen. 12:10–13:4).

Moses’ strength was in his meekness (Num. 12:3), yet he lost his temper, spoke rashly with his lips, and was not allowed to enter Canaan (Num. 20).

Peter was a brave man, but his courage failed him and he denied his Lord three times.

“Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall” **(1 Cor. 10:12, nkjv).[[2]](#footnote-2)**

**The Accuser Anticipates**

**Luke 22:54–62 (NKJV)** 54Having arrested Him, they led *Him* and brought Him into the high priest’s house. But Peter followed at a distance. 55Now when they had kindled a fire in the midst of the courtyard and sat down together, Peter sat among them. 56And a certain servant girl, seeing him as he sat by the fire, looked intently at him and said, “This man was also with Him.” 57But he denied Him, saying, “Woman, I do not know Him.” 58And after a little while another saw him and said, “You also are of them.” But Peter said, “Man, I am not!” 59Then after about an hour had passed, another confidently affirmed, saying, “Surely this *fellow* also was with Him, for he is a Galilean.” 60But Peter said, “Man, I do not know what you are saying!” Immediately, while he was still speaking, the rooster crowed. 61And 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.” 62So Peter went out and wept bitterly.

John and Peter were with Jesus when he Got arrested and John’s account Jesus told the soldiers to let them go on their way. I just want us to notice what happens when we are in a place that God has instructed us not to be.

The Accuser sees Peter mingling with the crowd but there is something I want to point out about verse 55, Peter sat among them.

We are reminded in the very first Psalm in the first verse of the critical progression on sitting with the enemy.

**Psalm 1 1**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, **2**but whose delight is in the law of the Lord, and who meditates on his law, day and night.

Any time that you allow your progression of sin to camp out with the enemy, you can be assured that you will become an easy target.

**Luke 22:56** 56And a certain servant girl, seeing him as he sat by the fire, looked intently at him and said, “This man was also with Him.”

The longer you sit around with the enemy, you will allow him to get a good look at you. Notice the servant girl looked intently at Peter. The accuser is anticipating his failure.

**Mark 14:68 (NKJV)** 68But he denied it, saying, “I neither know nor understand what you are saying.” And he went out on the porch, **and a rooster crowed.**

I don’t know if is was so noisy in Peter’s life that he couldn’t hear the rooster. Maybe he was caught up in the moment, maybe his emotions were so high, but I have to believe he heard it but tuned it out.

How many times has God given you warning shots, but you disregard and continue on.

Peter moved from the courtyard to the outer porch.

**Luke 22:58** 58And after a little while another saw him and said, “You also are of them.” But Peter said, “Man, I am not!”

Notice how Peter just hung around. “After a little while longer…..” we don’t know how long this was, but what I do know is that Peter didn’t take the first hint God gave him instead he continues to camp out with the enemy. All the while the Accuser anticipates and waits for failure to happen.

**Luke 22:59-60a** 59Then after about an hour had passed, another confidently affirmed, saying, “Surely this *fellow* also was with Him, for he is a Galilean.” 60But Peter said, “Man, I do not know what you are saying!”

The accuser loves to see the decline in Peter. He has went from a fair, “you got the wrong person,” to this time using harsh language, in Mark 17:71 it says Peter hurled curses at his accusers.

The accuser is looking for you not only fail, but he is looking for you to give in and give up. Peter has just watched his Lord be arrested, and is about to face a beating that would leave most for dead, and ultimately hang on the cross in His death.

The accuser awaits for failure to lead to fatality……..

**Luke 22:60b** 60Immediately, while he was still speaking, the rooster crowed. 61And the Lord turned and looked at Peter

The Rooster crows, Jesus eyes meet Peter’s eyes, and Peter weeps bitterly.

If you are here this morning and you know anything about My Jesus he doesn’t leave us stranded, he doesn’t leave us empty handed, he doesn’t leave us stranded, but He advocates for me, he speaks on my behalf, Like last week, he makes a way where there is no way, I know the Advocate and so does Peter.

**The Advocate Has The Antidote**

 **John 21:15–19 (NKJV)** 15So when they had eaten breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon, *son* of Jonah, do you love Me more than these?” He said to Him, “Yes, Lord; You know that I love You.” He said to him, “Feed My lambs.” 16He said to him again a second time, “Simon, *son* of Jonah, do you love Me?” He said to Him, “Yes, Lord; You know that I love You.” He said to him, “Tend My sheep.” 17He said to him the third time, “Simon, *son* of Jonah, do you love Me?” Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, “Do you love Me?” And he said to Him, “Lord, you know all things; You know that I love You.” Jesus said to him, “Feed My sheep. 18Most assuredly, I say to you, when you were younger, you girded yourself and walked where you wished; but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will gird you and carry *you* where you do not wish.” 19This He spoke, signifying by what death he would glorify God. And when He had spoken this, He said to him, **“Follow Me.”**

Peter and his Lord had already met privately and no doubt taken care of Peter’s sins (Luke 24:34; 1 Cor. 15:5), but since Peter had denied the Lord *publicly*, it was important that there be a public restoration.[[3]](#footnote-3)

In the previous passage we learned that Peter had denied Jesus 3 times, therefore Jesus addresses peter with 3 different questions.

The Advocate is not waiting for you to fail again, He is looking for a way to restore you back into the ministry.

Many of you here this morning has blown it, you are just like Peter after the 3 denials, you feel as if there is no place for you in God’s kingdom, further more you can’t see how God would want to use you again.

Listen to the Advocates words. He establishes the ground work to Peter. Do you love me….. That is a question that you need to ask yourself this morning. Do you love Him?

The Advocate answers, Feed my lambs. God doesn’t see you as being disqualified, but sees you as being qualified for the ministry he has in front of you.

The advocate asks again, do you love me? Again, I think Jesus is making Peter think about his response. He then goes a little deeper, “tend to my sheep.”

It’s one thing to feed a stray, anyone can feed a stray, but it is a different level of commitment when you begin to tend to that stray.

A third time the Advocate ask “do you love me?” This is at its deepest level where Jesus answers “feed my sheep.” We have progress from lamb to sheep, mature sheep takes a much deeper commitment to lead.

I have heard this statement about raising kids, everyone loves babies, but those babies grow up to be teenagers with their own opinions and a smart mouth that will cause every parent to want to lose their religion.

Jesus is telling Peter, Are you ready, Are you sure you are ready, Are you positive you are ready?

Jesus is wanting to communicate to you this morning, Feed My Sheep.

These are the words that the Advocate, Jesus wants you to take with you this morning, Follow Me. Immedetialy upon hearing those words Peter began to follow Jesus as he had done before.

Forget it, Stop listening to the noise of the Accuser and Trust the words of the Advocate, Follow Me.

1. Wiersbe, W. W. (1996). [*The Bible exposition commentary*](https://ref.ly/logosres/ntbec?ref=Bible.Lk22.31-38&off=135&ctx=o+was+the+greatest!+~Imagine+how+the+disc) (Vol. 1, pp. 266–267). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Wiersbe, W. W. (1996). [*The Bible exposition commentary*](https://ref.ly/logosres/ntbec?ref=Bible.Lk22.31-38&off=861&ctx=gthen+God%E2%80%99s+people.%0a~Peter%E2%80%99s+self-confide) (Vol. 1, p. 267). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Wiersbe, W. W. (1996). [*The Bible exposition commentary*](https://ref.ly/logosres/ntbec?ref=Bible.Jn21.9-18&off=1227&ctx=+neglects+the+body.%0a~Peter+and+his+Lord+h) (Vol. 1, p. 397). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)