

⁵⁴Then they seized him and led him away, bringing him into the high priest’s house, and Peter was following at a distance.

⁵⁵And when they had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and sat down together, Peter sat down among them.

⁵⁶Then a servant girl, seeing him as he sat in the light and looking closely at him, said, “This man also was with him.”

⁵⁷But he denied it, saying, “Woman, I do not know him.”

⁵⁸And a little later someone else saw him and said, “You also are one of them.” But Peter said, “Man, I am not.”

⁵⁹And after an interval of about an hour still another insisted, saying, “Certainly this man also was with him, for he too is a Galilean.”

⁶⁰But Peter said, “Man, I do not know what you are talking about.” And immediately, while he was still speaking, the rooster crowed.

⁶¹And the Lord turned and looked at Peter. And Peter remembered the saying of the Lord, how he had said to him, “Before the rooster crows today, you will deny me three times.”

⁶²And he went out and wept bitterly.

A Merciless Fear

Pride and fear are often the opposite sides of the same coin, or sinful heart. Our pride masks our fears very effectively. Where do you see Peter’s pride here, and then his fear?

Have you ever been challenged with your faith in Christ? How did you do? Were you afraid? Confident? Whichever your answer, how did you understand your response at the time?

What has Jesus promised us about the accusations and persecutions of the world, and how does that help us face times of fear and pride?

A Brutal Grace

What is it that sometimes makes the beautiful grace of our Lord brutal?

How did Peter experience this grace of Christ that night?

How do we know that Peter was not apostate, given he’d just denied his Lord 3 times?

Discuss the similarities between divine grace and divine forgiveness.