

John 18:15-18, 25-27
Three Strikes and Yet Still Forgiven!?!

INTRO: In many contexts it's 1, 2, 3 strikes and you're out!

If You, LORD, should mark our iniquities, O Lord, who could stand? Psalm 130:3

Peter's tragic denial of Jesus unfolds in three, unforgettable scenes:

Scene 1/Strike 1

(John 18:15-17)

Scene 2/Strike 2

(John 18:25)

Scene 2/Strike 2 continued

(John 18:25)

Scene 3/Strike 3

(John 18:26-27)

If You, LORD, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with You, That You may be feared. Psalm 130:3-4

For Further Reflection/Application: *Lord help us to be doers of the Word and not just hearers!*

What is the most important thing you heard today? How were you encouraged, challenged, and/or convicted? What do you want to study further as a result of today's message?

*Ah, holy Jesus, how have You offended, that mortal judgement has on you descended?
By foes derided, by Your own rejected, O most afflicted!*

*Who was the guilty? Who brought this upon You? It was my treason, Lord, that has undone You!
'Twas I, Lord Jesus, I it was denied You; I crucified You. It was my sin that made this atoning sacrifice
necessary!*

*For me, dear Jesus, was Your incarnation,/ Your mortal sorrow, and Your life's oblation;
Your death of anguish and Your bitter suffering/ for my salvation.*

*Therefore, dear Jesus, since I cannot repay You,/ I do however adore You, and will ever pray you.
think on Your pity and Your love unswerving/not my deserving.*

What songs besides *Ah holy Jesus, how have You offended* go well with today's sermon?

Is this how you view the trial and crucifixion of Jesus? Do you understand that it was your sin (and mine) that made the death of the Son of God (incarnate) necessary? Note Romans 3.

What are some ways Christian disciples deny the Lord Jesus Christ today? What are some ways you have (regrettably) done so? What are some of the reasons believers are tempted to distance themselves from Him?

How did Peter respond to his denial of Christ? How did Judas respond to his treacherous betrayal of Christ (note 2 Corinthians 7:10 and the verses listed below).

What passages of Scripture highlight the main points from today's exposition? For example read Psalm 130:3-4; Psalm 32; 1 John 1:8-2:2. 2 Corinthians 7:10.

Before the all-knowing Christ alone, if the Lord were to make public your most embarrassing sins (before and after your conversion), what would be listed? Be careful not to throw stones at Peter in a glass house.

John 18:12-14, 19-24

Even During a Miscarriage of Justice of Unparalleled Proportions, the LORD Reigns!

- 1) The Dishonorable House of Annas *(John 18:12-14; Mark 15:10)*
- 2) The Great Inquisition *(John 18:19-20; 19:6-7; Luke 23:3)*
- 3) The Table-Turning Questions *(John 18:21-23)*
- 4) The Pointless Change of Venue *(John 18:24; this was a kangaroo court)*

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