

Home Group Questions

the week of 4/12/2020

Various Scriptures

HAPPY EASTER!

This past Easter Sunday was a very unique Easter for us as a church. With the virus still impacting every aspect of American life, we had to celebrate this year via the internet. In our online service, Pastor Mel spoke on the epic failure of Peter during the trials and crucifixion of Christ. Obviously, Peter was in a high pressure situation....one that could have cost him his life. We will probably never face that kind of pressure in our lives yet, we still fall into the pressure to perform and pressure to conform when we should be focusing on Jesus' power to transform us into the people he wants us to be.

LOOKING IN THE WORD...

1. Read Mark 14:26-31. Peter says all the right things in this passage, but in the end we realize that his actions don't back up his words. Pastor Mel referred to this as the pressure to perform... saying all the right things but not backing it up with our actions. The sermon highlighted three things from the text that could have contributed to this in Peter's life. They were:

- A. Attitude of SUPERIORITY. (pride) v. 29,31 (Peter indicated that all the others might fall away, but not him!)**
- B. Ignoring God's WORD. v. 27,30 (Jesus' prophecy that Peter would deny Christ three times only strengthened Peter's pride in his own abilities)**

How can we strengthen ourselves for the spiritual battle that lies ahead of us? What are ways in which we can identify times in our lives when we're going through the motions, but have apparently lost touch with where our heart and convictions are in our lives? Which of the above two contributors tends to be the most frequent struggle in our lives, and how do we combat it?

2. Read Mark 14:66-72. The pressure was on as Jesus was being tried. Peter was out in the courtyard and confronted with the

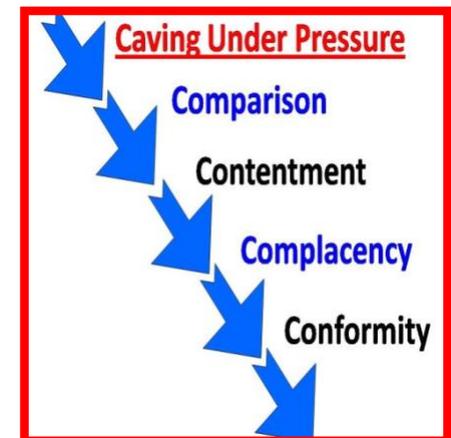
accusation that he was a follower of Jesus. Peter denied it three times. Pastor Mel shared three issues that might have contributed to Peter's caving in to that pressure. They were:

- A. Isolating oneself from other believers.**
- B. Allowing fear to dictate our actions. (not faith)**

Think of healthy responses to the two issues stated above. How can we fight off these tendencies in our lives or help others to fight off these tendencies?

3. Read John 21:1-17. This is a powerful account of Peter's restoration. Some people want to read a great deal into the use of the words "agape" and "phileo" in this passage, but we have to remember that Jesus was speaking in Aramaic here, so the words would have been in Aramaic not Greek. However, the main point is that Peter was restored and given work to do in the kingdom. What are some lessons we can learn from this account in our own lives about restoration? What are some other qualities that we need to remember about the process of restoration in the life of the church? (i.e. timeframe, discipleship/accountability, consequences, etc.) Talk about repentance, and what true repentance looks like in the life of a believer in Christ.

4. Look at chart to the right. This represents a slippery slope into conformity to the things of the world. Talk about the chart and little ways in which we can allow these steps to occur in our walk, and steps we can take to avoid this downward progression.



MOVING FORWARD...

Pray for an end to this pandemic. Pray that the Lord would give you a sensitive heart to areas in your life that need to be changed by His power.