

Luke

Carefully Investigating the Gospel ... Together

SSBC Luke Bible Study #90

Take this Bible Study home and use it to guide your exploration of the scripture passage that next Sunday's sermon will be focused on.

Passage: Luke 22:54-62

Sermon Date: Jun 24, 2007

Jesus Noticed ...

Jesus saw you sin yesterday. There's no denying it now. He even knew about it ahead of time, and he let you go through with it.

When you sinned, he looked over at you, just as he had looked at Peter back in the high priest's courtyard, as the rooster's crowing marked Peter's third cowardly denial. Somehow Jesus noticed Peter's sin. ... and yours.

But here's the amazing thing. Jesus saw your sin some 2,000 years ago, from his vantage point up on that cross, as he gave his life to pay the penalty for the sin you committed just yesterday. He knew he was dying to make a way for you to be freed from your sin.

Today, if you've accepted what he did for you, Jesus stands beside you, with his arm around you, ready to extend grace and mercy to you. On the other hand, if you've never accepted him, Jesus stands beside you also – waiting for you to believe in him, and ready to extend grace and mercy to you. Either way, as we fail, like Peter denying Christ three times, we can rest in the knowledge that Jesus loves us. Jesus notices our sin – indeed he died to erase it. Wow! What a beautiful savior!

These studies are produced by South Shore Baptist Church in conjunction with our weekly sermon series. Studies are distributed one week prior to the sermon as inserts in the church bulletin and are also posted at <http://sermonhouse.com/SSBC>. Sermons are also recorded and can be listened to later by visiting that same website. Have feedback or questions? Contact studieditor@southshorebaptist.com

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Bible Study:

1. Read this week's Bible passage and use the chart below to note your observations and any questions you have.

Scripture	Your Observations & Questions
<p>⁵⁴ Then seizing him, they led him away and took him into the house of the high priest. Peter followed at a distance. ⁵⁵ But when they had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and had sat down together, Peter sat down with them. ⁵⁶ A servant girl saw him seated there in the firelight. She looked closely at him and said, "This man was with him."</p> <p>⁵⁷ But he denied it. "Woman, I don't know him," he said.</p> <p>⁵⁸ A little later someone else saw him and said, "You also are one of them."</p> <p>"Man, I am not!" Peter replied.</p> <p>⁵⁹ About an hour later another asserted, "Certainly this fellow was with him, for he is a Galilean."</p> <p>⁶⁰ Peter replied, "Man, I don't know what you're talking about!" Just as he was speaking, the rooster crowed. ⁶¹ The Lord turned and looked straight at Peter. Then Peter remembered the word the Lord had spoken to him: "Before the rooster crows today, you will disown me three times." ⁶² And he went outside and wept bitterly.</p>	

2. Now read the passage two more times, in different versions. (Like Peter, we all need to hear things three times or so, don't you think?)

New American Standard	The Message
<p>⁵⁴ Having arrested Him, they led Him <i>away</i> and brought Him to the house of the high priest; but Peter was following at a distance.</p> <p>⁵⁵ After they had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and had sat down together, Peter was sitting among them.</p> <p>⁵⁶ And a servant-girl, seeing him as he sat in the firelight and looking intently at him, said, "This man was with Him too."</p> <p>⁵⁷ But he denied <i>it</i>, saying, "Woman, I do not know Him."</p> <p>⁵⁸ A little later, another saw him and said, "You are <i>one</i> of them too!" But Peter said, "Man, I am not!"</p> <p>⁵⁹ After about an hour had passed, another man <i>began</i> to insist, saying, "Certainly this man also was with Him, for he is a Galilean too."</p> <p>⁶⁰ But Peter said, "Man, I do not know what you are talking about." Immediately, while he was still speaking, a rooster crowed.</p> <p>⁶¹ The Lord turned and looked at Peter. And Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how He had told him, "Before a rooster crows today, you will deny Me three times."</p> <p>⁶² And he went out and wept bitterly.</p>	<p>Arresting Jesus, they marched him off and took him into the house of the Chief Priest. Peter followed, but at a safe distance. In the middle of the courtyard some people had started a fire and were sitting around it, trying to keep warm. One of the serving maids sitting at the fire noticed him, then took a second look and said, "This man was with him!"</p> <p>He denied it, "Woman, I don't even know him."</p> <p>A short time later, someone else noticed him and said, "You're one of them."</p> <p>But Peter denied it: "Man, I am not."</p> <p>About an hour later, someone else spoke up, really adamant: "He's got to have been with him! He's got 'Galilean' written all over him."</p> <p>Peter said, "Man, I don't know what you're talking about." At that very moment, the last word hardly off his lips, a rooster crowed. Just then, the Master turned and looked at Peter. Peter remembered what the Master had said to him: "Before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times." He went out and cried and cried and cried.</p>

3. Next, use this chart to **interpret some key observations**.

a. Select a few of your observations & questions from pages 2-3 that you find most interesting or important. Rewrite these below, and interpret and apply them using the columns to the right.

b. For each observation, begin to interpret by asking yourself these kinds of questions:

- What does it mean?
- Why is this important?
- What does this tell me about the Father? Jesus? The Holy Spirit?
- Are there other scriptures that could help me understand this?

Observation What does it say?	Interpretation What does it mean?

4. Now consider how you can **apply** the Word to your life. Look for:

- **S**ins to avoid
- **P**romises to believe
- **E**xamples to follow (remember "SPECK")
- **C**ommands to obey
- **K**nowledge to share

Don't just write things to write them – listen carefully to God's Word and what he seems to be teaching you, and look for relevant things that you're truly stirred to do. Then as you do them, God will help you learn, grow, and help others grow.

Application How do I apply what it means?

Look Closer:

5. Which disciples followed Jesus after he was arrested? (see Luke 22:54 and John 18:15) What does this tell you about them?

6. Despite his previous bold proclamation that he would follow Jesus “to prison and to death” (Luke 22:33), Peter ends up caving in and denying Jesus three times. This is one of the classic instances of cowardice in the face of a great opportunity to proclaim God’s glory and stand up to evil.

a. What are some other classic instances of cowardice in the Bible?

(Need help? Check out Gen 3:12, Gen 12:10-13, Gen 20:1-3, 11-13, Exodus 32:22-24, 1 Sam 17:1-11, 24, Luke 8:22-24)

b. What are some classic instances of cowardice you have committed or otherwise experienced (particularly ones involving opportunities to stand firm in one’s faith)?

c. How can we grow stronger in our courage? (Joshua 1:7-9, 1 Cor 16:13, Eph 6:10-18, Phil 4:13, 2 Tim 1:7) What is one practical step you could take toward gaining more courage?

7. God knows we will fail, even before it happens. Yet He is still willing to forgive us – if only we will turn to him, come clean about our sin, and repent (or turn away) from our sin. (1 John 1:9)

a. What are some things which Jesus might have been trying to communicate to Peter by looking straight at him after the rooster crowed? (Luke 22:61)

b. As Jesus looked at Peter, Peter “remembered the word the Lord had spoken to him.” What words do you need to get better at hearing God say to you after you have sinned?

c. One thing that’s helpful to hear when we’re struggling is the basic gospel message. Therefore, it’s helpful to know it by heart. For instance, have you memorized the ‘Romans Road’? Try writing out the verses from memory below. Or if you’ve never memorized them, look them up and copy them below, as well as on some index cards, and start committing them to memory today.

Romans 3:23

Romans 6:23

Romans 5:8

Romans 10:9

8. Later on in the gospels, we'll see Peter encouraged and restored by a resurrected Jesus, and told *three* times (perhaps reminding him of his *three* denials) to take care of Jesus' followers (see John 21:15-19). But for now, he is probably very dejected as he replays in his mind his failure to stand up for Jesus.

a. In what ways have you experienced such spiritual or moral defeat in your own life? How did it feel?

b. How can the reality of Jesus' death and resurrection encourage and restore us when we fail? (See 2 Cor 5:7 and Gal 5:1) How could you practically use these truths to avoid allowing your sinful mistakes to enslave you? (Would memorizing these verses help?)

9. What stands out to you the most as you look back at this study? How can you apply something you've learned from it in your life this week?