

**Continuing Sermon Series –
God Uses Ordinary People”**

**PETER'S
UNSTABLE
CHARACTER**

1

“Two natures beat within **my breast**. One is **foul**, one is **blessed**. One **I love**, one **I hate**. The one **I feed** will **dominate!**”

Craig Massey, Christian Author

4

Matthew 26: 69-75 (NIV)

69 Now Peter was sitting out in the courtyard, and a servant girl came to him. “You also were with Jesus of Galilee,” she said. 70 But he denied it before them all. “I don’t know what you’re talking about,” he said. 71 Then he went out to the gateway, where another girl saw him and said to the people there, “This fellow was with Jesus of Nazareth.”

2

Question:

“If you could **go back** and **fix** one thing; **relive** one moment; **what** would **it** be?”

5

72 He denied it again, with an oath: “I don’t know the man!” 73 After a little while, those standing there went up to Peter and said, “Surely you are one of them, for your accent gives you away.” 74 Then he began to call down curses on himself he swore to them, “I don’t know the man!” Immediately a rooster crowed. 75 Then Peter remembered the word Jesus had spoken: “Before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times.” And he went outside and wept bitterly.

3

Today’s **message** is either a **message** of **warning**, or it is a **message** of **encouragement**.

6

3 SITUATIONS where we *see*
Peter's ***unstable character***:

1. We see ***presumption without consistency***

7

"Father, ***If*** it's ***possible***,
may this ***cup*** be ***taken***
from ***Me!*** Nevertheless,
not my will, Father, but
your will be done."

10

Matthew 26:31, "This very night
you will ***all fall away*** because of
me, for it is written, 'I will ***strike***
the ***shepherd*** and the ***sheep*** of
the ***flock*** will be ***scattered!***"

8

3 SITUATIONS where we *see*
Peter's ***unstable character***:

1. We see ***presumption without consistency***
2. We see ***power without control***

11

Matthew 26:38, "My ***soul***
Is ***overwhelmed*** with
sorrow to the ***point*** of
death! Stay here and
keep watch with ***Me.***"

9

Matthew 26:50-51, "Friend, ***do*** what you
have ***come for.***' Then the men ***stepped***
forward, seized ***Jesus***, and ***arrested***
Him! And, with ***that***, one of Christ's
companions reached for his ***sword***,
drew it out, and ***struck*** the servant of
the ***high priest***, cutting ***off*** his ***ear!***"

12

"Blessed are the **mEEK**, for **they** will **inherit** the **earth!**"

13

He also said, "You know, Peter, I could **beakon** My **heavenly Father**, and He would **send twelve legions of angels**, in a heartbeat!"

16

"Blessed are the **peacemakers!**"

14

He reminded Peter, "I've **come** to **fulfill** the **scriptures!**"

17

THREE REASONS WHY HE STOPPED HIM:

Jesus said, "Peter, If you **live** by the **sword**, you are going to **die** by the **sword!**"

15

Question:

"What would **you** have **done**, if you had **been there**, in the garden with Christ, **when** He was **arrested?**"

18

"Character" is not made in *crisis*. It is exhibited in *crisis*!

19

"We tend to overestimate our *ability* to *cope* with temptation, and underestimate our *ability* to *handle adversity*!"

22

Solomon said,
"A prudent man sees *danger* and *takes refuse*, but the simple keep *going* and *suffer* for it!"

20

The Bible warns, "***take heed*** when you ***think*** you **stand**, lest you **fall!**"

23

3 SITUATIONS where we *see* Peter's ***unstable character***:

1. We see ***presumption*** without consistency
2. We see ***power*** without control
3. We see ***panic*** without commitment

21

"Most ***character flaws*** in people's lives are **not opposites** of their ***strengths***, but rather they are their **strengths** to an **extreme!**"

Gary Smalley & John Trent, Christian Authors & Teachers

24

"We ought to **pray** for the **strong**, because they are **weak!**"

Steven Brown, Pastor & Teacher

25

"**Fatigue** makes **cowards** of us **all!**"

Jay Wallace Hamilton, Christian Author

28

Matthew 26:69, "You **also** were **with** Jesus Of Galilee! But, he **denied it** before them all, saying, '**I don't know what you are talking about!**'"

26

Matthew 26:71-72, "Then he went out to the gateway where **another girl** saw him, and said to the people there, '**Hey, this fellow was with Jesus of Nazareth!**' And, he **denied it**, again, **with an oath!** **I don't know the man!!**"

29

At least,
"He went!!"

27

"**Sin** has **many tools**, but a **lie** is the **handle** that **fits** them **all!**"

Oliver Wendell Holmes, Sr.

30

Matthew 26:73-75,
 "After a little while, **those** standing there
went up to Peter and said, '**surely you**
are one of them, for your **accent** gives
 you away!' Then Peter began to **call**
down curses on himself and he **swore**
 to them, '**I don't know the man!**'

31

A reminder: **We** have **made**
commitments to Jesus
 Christ, and we **need** to **do**
 our **best** to **honor** and
keep those **commitments!**

34

Immediately a **rooster** crowed. Then
 Peter **remembered** the word Jesus
 had **spoken**: 'Before the **rooster**
crows, you will **disown me three**
times.' And he went outside and
wept bitterly."

32

We've **all** said, "**Never**,
 Lord! **That** will **never**
happen to me! **I'll**
Never Do That! Never,
 Lord!!"

35

"He who **sups** with the
devil had better have a
very long spoon!"

Peter Berger, Australian Theologian

33

We've **all heard** the
rooster crow, and
too often, we've
ignored it!"

36

Four SAFEGUARDS to prevent instability:

1. Pray! Pray *always!*

37

Don't allow an
"unguarded strength" to become a
"double weakness"!

40

Jesus had been
"praying"! Peter had
been ***"sleeping"***!

38

Four SAFEGUARDS to prevent instability:

- 1. Pray! Pray *always!***
- 2. Stay *accountable!***
- 3. Anticipate situations!**

41

Four SAFEGUARDS to prevent instability:

- 1. Pray! Pray *always!***
- 2. Stay *accountable!***

39

A lot of times you can **see temptation coming.**
You make sure you are
prepared for it!

42

Four SAFEGUARDS to prevent instability:

1. **Pray!** Pray *always!*
2. **Stay accountable!**
3. **Anticipate situations!**
4. **Pay attention** to the rooster's "**First Crow**"!

43

"Failure is not **falling down**.
Failure is **staying down!**"

46

There was a
"warning" that
took place!!

44

He doesn't want **lip**
service, he wants
life service!

47

Simon Peter made some **"big mistakes"**; he **"stumbled"**,
and he **fell down!**
But, do you know what?
He **got back up!**!!

45

Revelation 2:10
Be thou **faithful** even to
the point of **death** and I
will give you the **crown** of
life.

48