

Scripture: Mark 14:66-72 & Mark 16:1-13

Singing: 28 – 111 -- 310:1-4 – 92:1-3

A. What is needed when we stare into the face of sin and feel deserted?

Jesus' Word of hope to Peter

I. When? II. Why? III. What?

I. When did Jesus speak these words to Peter?

A. He did when Peter was in a pit of miry clay (Ps. 40:1)

1. The pit was self-inflicted (Matt. 26; Mark 14)

2. Yet while going into the pit, Peter did get 'look of Jesus.' (Luke 22:61)

B. What did Peter read in that look of His Master standing alone?

1. The pain of surprise?

2. The pain of a rebuke?

3. The warmth of love?

C. Does Jesus still turn to look at His backsliding people today?

II. Why did Jesus speak these words of hope "and Peter"?

A. He knew the glad tidings of Easter would not reach Peter's heart

1. Ps. 88 may quite accurately picture Peter's haggard soul

2. Add Satan's hammerings as 'accuser of the brethren' (Rev. 12:10)

3. Gladly Peter was kept from following Judas: Luke 22:31-32; 1 Peter 1:5

B. What does "and Peter" reveal to us about God's desires for His people?

III. What did these words 'and Peter' relay?

A. Message of *solid Gospel hope* for Peter's disconsolate heart

1. God's general truths (6-7) would not have been enough for Peter

2. Angel's words *and Peter* is Jesus's *personal* reassurance of Gospel

B. How tenderly are Jesus' words and ministry!

1. This is how our Lord Jesus still is: Ex. 34:6-7

Personal Reflection: Are you like Peter who heard the women's tidings?

A. John 20 informs us about his *lack of faith* like John (20:8)

B. Therefore Jesus met Peter privately (Lk 24:34; 1 Cor 15:5)

C. As with Peter, God may give a personal reassurance (John 20:27)

1. How?

2. Yet how do I know He spoke *personally* to me?

Hope

Hope fills the afflicted soul with such inward joy and consolation,
that it can laugh while tears are in the eye,
sign and sing all in a breath:
it is called 'the rejoicing of hope' (Hebrews 3:6). (W. Gurnall)

Hope is never ill when faith is well. (J. Bunyan)

The saints often mistakenly feed their hopes on the carcasses of their slain fears instead of the living Word of God.