

**Lenten Series: Sounds of the Passion—Lord of Life, Westfield, IN—Wed.2/16/05**

**Theme:** Often Satan uses the shame of our sin to cause us to run away from Jesus rather than to him; yet the truth still stands, no sin is too great or frequent from which His dying love can't rescue me.

**Text:** **Matthew 26: 69-75**

**Intro:** *Ills.: That irritating rooster*

***Caught up in the mad rush to rescue ourselves***

1. Much of our sin is a maddening rush to be in control of our lives (Idolatry)
  1. Peter wanted to be in charge—promising to stand by Jesus; living in denial of his denial; and try to save himself from possible persecution and death assoc. w/Jesus
  2. **Ills.: Self-diagnosis can kill you**
2. Much of our life is a frenzied rush to rescue ourselves from the effects of our sin
  1. Rushing from one destructive decision and deception to the next
    1. Peter went from denying (lying) to dishonoring (swear) to destroying (curse)
    2. We think if we work harder, we won't have to really involve God—for now
    3. Hardest thing about believing and trusting in Jesus is letting him save you.
  2. Caught in the web of our own sins' devices
    1. **Ills. *O what a tangled web we weave, when first we practice to deceive!* Sir Walter Scott**

***Captured in the forgiving love of Christ***

3. Christ doesn't forgive us because we are likeable but because we are loved
  1. Luke (22:61) tells us that Jesus catches Peter's eye and his glance pieced to his soul
    1. What kind of glance do you think it was (anger, disappointment, hurt, love?)
    2. *Christ died for us while we were still sinners. This demonstrates God's love for us. Rom 5: 8*
    3. Jesus goes looking for you and me when we don't look for him—that's grace
4. Laying hold of the one who already reached out for me
  1. It is not guilt or shame that will bring you on your knees to Jesus—it is love
  2. *Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Phil 3: 12*

## **Self-diagnosis Can Kill You**

Construction worker Patrick Lawler thought he had a toothache. For almost a week, he tried painkillers and ice packs to reduce the swelling. When nothing he did brought relief, he finally went to the dental office where his wife works. Only after the dentist took an x-ray did Patrick learn the true source of the toothache. He had a four-inch nail in his head. When the dentists reported their discovery to Patrick's wife, she thought they were joking. But the x-ray revealed the truth. The nail had entered through his mouth, just missing Patrick's right eye. The incident occurred six days earlier. Patrick was working with a nail gun that backfired. Although one of the nails shot into his mouth and embedded itself, Patrick didn't realize it. He merely complained of a toothache and blurry vision, and even tried ice cream to soothe the pain. After the nail was discovered, surgeons at a Denver hospital successfully removed it through four hours of surgery. Although it is a "pretty rare injury," one neurosurgeon admitted, "this is the second one we've seen in this hospital where the person was injured by the nail gun and didn't actually realize the nail had been embedded in their skull." A wrong diagnosis only leads to a wrong remedy. In the spiritual realm, unless we recognize the deadly reality of sin, we will never turn to the only solution, which is found in Christ. *Citation:* Terry Horvath, Winter Springs, Florida; source: "It's a Pretty Rare Injury," *Sydney Morning Herald* (1-17-05)

## **Matthew 26:69-75**

<sup>71</sup>Now Peter was sitting out in the courtyard, and a servant girl came to him. "You also were with Jesus of Galilee," she said. <sup>70</sup>But he denied it before them all. "I don't know what you're talking about," he said. <sup>71</sup>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." <sup>72</sup>He denied it again, with an oath: "I don't know the man!" <sup>73</sup>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." <sup>74</sup>Then he began to call down curses on himself and he swore to them, "I don't know the man!" Immediately a rooster crowed. <sup>75</sup>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.