



Collusion or Collision
Collision Characters: Part 2
From sermon 6.6.21

Read 2 Timothy 3:12-14

Review from Sunday's sermon: Besides just sounding the alarm that the world is getting worse and persecution is coming for the faithful, the Church needs to be offering hope and strength. The Bible is full of stories and models of collision characters to emulate. Additionally, we've been given weekly corporate worship for equipping the Saints. Yet, now with the re-opening, it's easier than ever to stay home, substitute with online church, or prioritize some other activity. These biblical characters paid the highest price for church. We should be no less committed.

1. Before he became a model of faithfulness in collision, how did Peter (all of the Apostles) collude with the enemy and the culture? See also *Mark 14:48-50, Luke 22:54-62, & John 20:19*. He ran and deserted Jesus as His arrest in the Garden. He violently denied even knowing Jesus in the courtyard vs. testifying on His behalf. He was hiding on Resurrection Sunday vs. waiting faithfully outside the tomb.

2. What lesson is there, for us, in Peter's saga? Jesus had already repeatedly warned them all of falling away when the heat/danger got turned up. He had admonished them, in the Garden, to stay awake and pray for strength and faith. They skipped out to focus on physical needs (sleep, rest, procrastinate). When the collision came, they all failed, including the confident Peter. We must see our absolute need for spiritual nourishment in the Church. Jesus is warning us as well.

3. Read and Discuss *1 Corinthians 10:11-13*. God has given us the Scriptures for a reason. Beyond just revealing His Nature and plan, the Bible contains the real stories and failures of its main characters as lessons for us. In these "last days", we must learn from those God used in history. These Apostles believed they were immune from failure and fear. We must guard from getting lax in our walk/worship.

4. On Sunday, it was stated: "For the Church, a world re-opened is just as (maybe more) dangerous as a world shut down." Discuss. When we were in lock down, we could not meet as a Church and worship according to Scripture. We were all dying a little each week with "church online". That was forced on us by the world. Now, church is re-opened and a habit of absence is growing. This is our choice. There's so much to go do now: reconnect, vacations, projects, rest, recreation. Many shared of spiritual growth and resolve when we were persecuted. Now, it's easy to settle for safe/mediocrity. See *Hebrews 10:23-25*

5. What changed the disciples from fearful to faithful? An encounter with the resurrected Christ.
See *Acts 4:19-20 & 1 John 1:1-3*

6. How do we experience the same thing? Various answers. 1st = coming to faith in Jesus Christ alone. But, also: through the study of the Word. By considering our fallenness and the grace given to us. Corporate worship, fellowship, discipleship, the ordinances of baptism and the Lord's Supper, and offerings given in faith.