

# “Resisting Rescue”

*Accompanies the 4/3/22 Sermon*

## Resisting Rescue: Peter

In today’s reading we will find that Jesus is nearing his time on the cross. As his journey inevitably moves to his death, he defined himself with fewer followers and far less friends. First the crowd leaves, then he is betrayed by one of those nearest to him. Finally, as Jesus is arrested, his last nearest follower denies his association with Jesus. In that moment Peter denies Jesus and resists his rescue. We can find that all of us at one point or another resist what God is doing and what he would have for us.

## SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

Read the following Scriptures together and then use the questions below (or any you wish to add) to discuss the text and unpack its meaning.



Have someone in your group read **John 18:1-27**

1. What in today’s text do you find interesting, creates questions, or you find exciting?
2. Up to this point in the story how would you have characterized Peter and his role in the group of Jesus’ followers?
3. The moment whenever Peter cuts off the soldier’s ear is a dramatic affair. What does this moment tell you about Peter and his understanding of Jesus? What does Jesus’ response tell you about him or his purpose?
4. Why would Peter deny his involvement with Jesus?
5. What does this story tell you about Jesus and his character?

## GETTING PRACTICAL

Instead of trusting the plans and abilities of Jesus, Peter tries to take things into his own hands. He tried to take control which led to disaster. Later he would altogether deny Jesus. Let's spend a few minutes talking about God's sovereignty, how we trust him, and how like Peter we can be prone to outright rejecting his rule in our life.

Peter's protecting of Jesus does not immediately seem like it was done with poor intentions, yet it led to disaster. His actions reflect his misunderstanding of the character, purpose and ability of God. Like Peter we can often try to control rather than submit.

1. Do you struggle with being in control at all times? How can this lead to rejecting what God would have for us?
2. Peter would eventually deny Jesus, not just once but three times. What do you think motivated Peter's denial? How can we tend to do the same thing?
3. While we have focused much of our conversation today around Peter and around us. Yet the bigger understanding of this text points to the gospel and the work of Jesus. How does Jesus later restore Peter? How does he do that for us also amidst our times of control and those times we resist him and his plans?