

## **PEOPLE WHO FAIL**

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John 18:12-27

From: Scott Carlson

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### **INTRODUCTION: A LONG LINE OF PEOPLE WHO FAIL**

Christians today follow a long line of people who fail.

In John 18, we see four groups of people failing Jesus in four different ways.

**Judas:** Disbelief leads to betrayal.

**The priests and Sanhedrin:** Disbelief leads to denial.

**Peter:** Belief gives way to betrayal.

**Pilate:** Disbelief leads to indifference.

In each of these episodes we take warning, but we may also find encouragement to overcome our failures.

**Proposition:** The grace and wrath of God is emphasized in the lives of those who betray His Son.

# I. THE PRIESTS: DISBELIEF AND DENIAL

## A. HISTORY

## B. CONTEXT

John 11:47ff.

## C. TEXT

## D. THE LESSON TO LEARN

They put Christ on trial and demanded that he defend himself.

## **Acts 6:7**

The word of God kept on spreading; and the number of the disciples continued to increase greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were becoming obedient to the faith.

## **II. PETER: BELIEF AND BETRAYAL**

### **A. CONTEXT**

### **B. TEXT**

## C. THE LESSON TO LEARN

Peter is the kind of person who believes in Christ, but puts Him to the side when it is inconvenient for him to associate with Jesus.

### CONCLUSION: A LONG LINE OF PEOPLE RESTORED

As we tell the story of the death of Jesus, each one of us can associate with one of the groups who abandoned Him. And yet, how they failed is not nearly as telling as what happened next.

**Judas:** Disbelief leads to betrayal, regret and an ignominious death.

**The priests and Sanhedrin:** Disbelief leads to denial and loss of all they held dear. Some believed.

**Peter:** Belief leads to betrayal, but ends with remorse, repentance, and restoration.

**Pilate:** Disbelief leads to indifference and either execution or suicide.

The reason our failure need not be the end is central to this story. Christ died for sinners, while we were yet sinners.