

## #278 The Cross of Jesus Christ vs. the Rights of Man – Peter’s Cross vs. Peter’s Sword

**Key Understanding:** It is entirely clear in scripture that there was a direct relationship between the condition of Peter’s heart when he rebuked Jesus about going to the Cross (Matthew 16:21-25), and the condition of his heart when he later drew the Sword to keep Jesus from going to the Cross (John 18:10-11).

### Matthew 16:21-25: Peter rebuking Jesus about going to the Cross

*Matthew 16:21-25 (KJV) From that time forth began Jesus to shew unto his disciples, how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and raised again the third day.*

*22 Then Peter took him, and began to rebuke him, saying, Be it far from thee, Lord: this shall not be unto thee.*

*23 But he turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men.*

*24 Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.*

*25 For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it.*

### John 18:10-11: Peter drawing the Sword to keep Jesus from going to the Cross

*John 18:10-11 (KJV) Then Simon Peter having a sword drew it, and smote the high priest’s servant, and cut off his right ear. The servant’s name was Malchus.*

*11 Then said Jesus unto Peter, Put up thy sword into the sheath: the cup which my Father hath given me, shall I not drink it?*

**Peter’s Sword is required for the defense of Thomas Jefferson’s “God-given unalienable rights.” It protects the “before the cross” Peters of the Church from going to the Cross, and constructs a different gospel that doesn’t require them to take up their crosses, and in fact allows them to bear the Sword in the name of the Cross.**

**It is clear that there was a direct relationship between the condition of Peter’s heart when he drew the Sword (John 18:10-11), and his willingness to deny Jesus Christ (John 18:17, 25-27). Jesus had warned Peter of this (John 13:37-38), knowing that Peter himself was not spiritually ready for his own cross.**



An artist’s depiction of Peter drawing the sword

**John 13:37-38: Peter would draw the Sword for Jesus, but not go to the Cross for Jesus**

*John 13:37-38 (KJV) Peter said unto him, Lord, why cannot I follow thee now? **I will lay down my life for thy sake.***

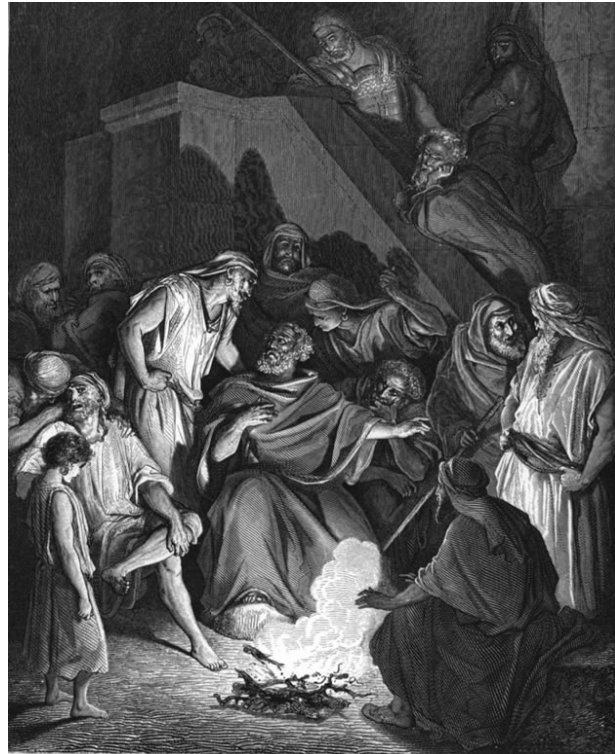
*38 Jesus answered him, Wilt thou lay down thy life for my sake? Verily, verily, I say unto thee, **The cock shall not crow, till thou hast denied me thrice.***

**John 18:25-27: Peter denied Jesus Christ because the condition of his heart was that of drawing the Sword for Jesus, not carrying his Cross for Jesus**

*John 18:25-27 (KJV) And Simon Peter stood and warmed himself. They said therefore unto him, Art not thou also one of his disciples? **He denied it, and said, I am not.** [This was Peter's second denial. Peter's first denial is seen in John 18:17.]*

*26 One of the servants of the high priest, being his kinsman whose ear Peter cut off, saith, Did not I see thee in the garden with him?*

*27 Peter then denied again [Peter's third denial]: **and immediately the cock crew.***



Portrayal of Peter's denial of Jesus Christ

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