

San Mateo Presbyterian Church - 4/19/2026

Defining Moments John 18:15-18, 25-26

John 18:15-18 KJV “And Simon Peter followed Jesus, and so did another disciple: that disciple was known unto the high priest, and went in with Jesus into the palace of the high priest. But Peter stood at the door without. Then went out that other disciple, which was known unto the high priest, and spake unto her that kept the door, and brought in Peter. Then saith the damsel that kept the door unto Peter, Art not thou also one of this man’s disciples? He saith, I am not. And the servants and officers stood there, who had made a fire of coals; for it was cold: and they warmed themselves: and Peter stood with them, and warmed himself.”

John 18:25-26 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. 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?”

How could it happen to a person who loved Christ?

He thought that it would never affect him - he was overconfident in his own strength

1 Corinthians 10:12

Matthew 26:33-35

2 Corinthians 12:10

He did not understand the pressure he would face.

He did not realize that a little yielding to temptation lead to deeper sin.

Galatians 5:9

How can I prevent myself from failing in a defining moment?

I want to give six principles to live by that will guard our hearts.

We must be honest about our personal weakness.

Hebrews 12:1

Jeremiah 17:5

We must remember, respect, and reverence the Lord everywhere.

Exodus 20:7

We must exercise spiritually

Matthew 26:36-41

1 Timothy 4:8

A. *We must hold ourselves accountable.*

A. *We must be careful with our friendships*

2 Corinthians 6:14

Proverbs 22:24

1 Corinthians 15:33

A. *We must count the cost before we act.*

Galatians 6:7–8

Luke 14:28

Luke 22:61-62

What do I do after failing at a defining moment?

Acts 12:25

Acts 13:13

Acts 15:37–41

2 Timothy 4:11

1. Ask forgiveness when it involves sin.
2. Seek restoration when needed.
3. Do not rush ahead to redefine the moment, wait on the Lord and His will.
4. Look for opportunities and pitfalls that could circumvent your return.

John Maxwell says something like this – “It is never too late to begin again and bring about a different end.....”

1 John 1:9 KJV “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

Please note: if you have a subject, passage, or topic that you would like for me to preach, then email me at mkhudsonsr@gmail.com. I will carefully consider it but do not guarantee that I will preach on it.