

Title: That's A Strike - John 18 19-27

Read:

¹⁹⁻²¹Annas interrogated Jesus regarding his disciples and his teaching. Jesus answered, "I've spoken openly in public. I've taught regularly in meeting places and the Temple, where the Jews all come together. Everything has been out in the open. I've said nothing in secret. So why are you treating me like a conspirator? Question those who have been listening to me. They know well what I have said. My teachings have all been aboveboard." ²²When he said this, one of the policemen standing there slapped Jesus across the face, saying, "How dare you speak to the Chief Priest like that!" ²³Jesus replied, "If I've said something wrong, prove it. But if I've spoken the plain truth, why this slapping around?" ²⁴Then Annas sent him, still tied up, to the Chief Priest Caiaphas. ²⁵Meanwhile, Simon Peter was back at the fire, still trying to get warm. The others there said to him, "Aren't you one of his disciples?" He denied it, "Not me." ²⁶One of the Chief Priest's servants, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, said, "Didn't I see you in the garden with him?" ²⁷Again, Peter denied it. Just then a rooster crowed.

Think:

So Peter has denied that he knows Jesus not once, not twice but three times, that's a Strike, and he is out. Not so long ago in John 13:37-38 he said "*Master, why can't I follow now? I'll lay down my life for you!*" Jesus knew what was going to happen, do you remember his reply? Jesus said "*Really? You'll lay down your life for me? The truth is that before the rooster crows, you'll deny me three times.*" And as the sound of the rooster crowing dies away we are reminded once again, that Jesus knows every bit of our heart. Of course we have never said that we won't do something, and then gone ahead and done it have we? I know I have never said that I wouldn't snap at someone I love, and then snapped at them because I was feeling grumpy. Hmm well maybe I have just once or twice. But I am sure that you would never do such a thing, would you? Of course if you were to do things that you said you wouldn't what should you do? Should you feel guilty and beat yourself up? Should you not care and just give up trying? Well it seems to me that when Jesus talked about being selfish he said things like "you are forgiven, now go and be selfish no more." So the answer is that we shouldn't beat ourselves up, but we should say sorry and keep on trying to not do selfish stuff. As for Peter who is probably feeling rubbish right now, well we get back to him later on.

Pray:

Father you and I know the stuff that I try not to do, that harms me. Please forgive me and help me not to do that stuff in the future. Amen.

Action:

Why not pick one thing that you would rather you didn't do and just decide not to do that from now on. But don't forget to ask God to help you. Cheerio.