A photograph of two orangutans in a forest. The larger one is on the right, looking towards the camera with a slight smile. The smaller one is on the left, looking towards the camera. The background is a dark, out-of-focus forest.

Creatures Preaching

Matthew 3:1-5

Matthew 3:1-5

- “In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, 2 and saying, Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand! 3 For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah, saying: The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the LORD; Make His paths straight.' 4 And John himself was clothed in camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist; and his food was locusts and wild honey. 5 Then Jerusalem, all Judea, and all the region around the Jordan went out to him”

John The Baptist Was A Strange Preacher

- He had a strange message.
- He had a strange pulpit.
- He had a strange appearance.
- Other unusual preachers with vital messages:



Noah's Dove

- Gen. 8:11-12 - “Then the dove came to him in the evening, and behold, a freshly plucked olive leaf was in her mouth; and Noah knew that the waters had receded from the earth. 12 So he waited yet another seven days and sent out the dove, which did not return again to him anymore.”

Noah's Dove

- A message of God's faithfulness
 - Psalm 3:1-6 - "LORD, how they have increased who trouble me! Many are they who rise up against me. 2 Many are they who say of me, There is no help for him in God. 3 But You, O LORD, are a shield for me, My glory and the One who lifts up my head. 4 I cried to the LORD with my voice, And He heard me from His holy hill. 5 I lay down and slept; I awoke, for the LORD sustained me. 6 I will not be afraid of ten thousands of people Who have set themselves against me all around."

Balaam's Donkey

- Num. 22:28-31 - “Then the LORD opened the mouth of the donkey, and she said to Balaam, What have I done to you, that you have struck me these three times? 29 And Balaam said to the donkey, Because you have abused me. I wish there were a sword in my hand, for now I would kill you! 30 So the donkey said to Balaam, Am I not your donkey on which you have ridden, ever since I became yours, to this day? Was I ever disposed to do this to you? And he said, No. 31 Then the LORD opened Balaam's eyes, and he saw the Angel of the LORD standing in the way with His drawn sword in His hand; and he bowed his head and fell flat on his face.”

Elijah's Ravens

- 1Kings 17:2-7 - “Then the word of the LORD came to him, saying, 3 Get away from here and turn eastward, and hide by the Brook Cherith, which flows into the Jordan. 4 And it will be that you shall drink from the brook, and I have commanded the ravens to feed you there. 5 So he went and did according to the word of the LORD, for he went and stayed by the Brook Cherith, which flows into the Jordan. 6 The ravens brought him bread and meat in the morning, and bread and meat in the evening; and he drank from the brook. 7 And it happened after a while that the brook dried up, because there had been no rain in the land.”

Elijah's Ravens

- A message of trust in Divine Providence
 - Rom. 8:28, 31-34 - “And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose... 31 What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? 32 He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things? 33 Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. 34 Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.”

The Rich Man's Dogs

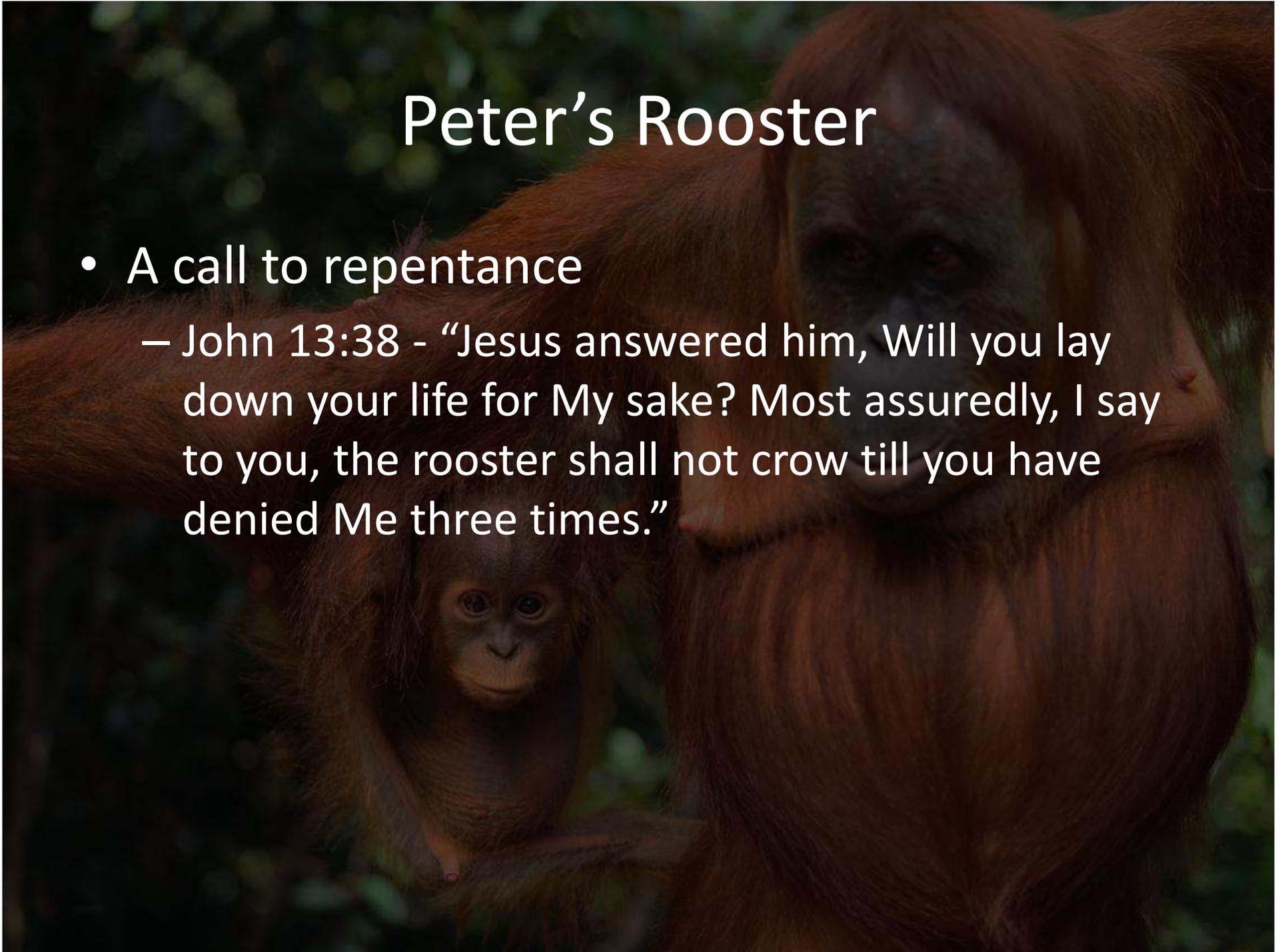
- Luke 16:19-22 - “There was a certain rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and fared sumptuously every day. 20 But there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, full of sores, who was laid at his gate, 21 desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table. Moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. 22 So it was that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels to Abraham's bosom. The rich man also died and was buried.”

Peter's Rooster

- Luke 22:60-62 - “But Peter said, Man, I do not know what you are saying! Immediately, while he was still speaking, the rooster crowed. 61 And the Lord turned and looked at Peter. And Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how He had said to him, Before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times. 62 So Peter went out and wept bitterly.”

Peter's Rooster

- A call to repentance
 - John 13:38 - “Jesus answered him, Will you lay down your life for My sake? Most assuredly, I say to you, the rooster shall not crow till you have denied Me three times.”



Herod's Worms

- Acts 12:20-24 - “Now Herod had been very angry with the people of Tyre and Sidon; but they came to him with one accord, and having made Blastus the king's personal aide their friend, they asked for peace, because their country was supplied with food by the king's country. 21 So on a set day Herod, arrayed in royal apparel, sat on his throne and gave an oration to them. 22 And the people kept shouting, The voice of a god and not of a man! 23 Then immediately an angel of the Lord struck him, because he did not give glory to God. And he was eaten by worms and died. 24 But the word of God grew and multiplied.”

Herod's Worms

- A message of Divine justice
- Consider the stark contrast between God's justice and man's concept of what one merits
 - Immediacy indicates absolute knowledge of what one deserves
 - Severity implies absolute knowledge of the magnitude of the crime