

The Rooster

Matthew 26:57-75

When I went to the Holy Land, there was one place that impacted my Spiritual walk. It was not the Via de la Rosa where Jesus carried his cross, it was not the Hill of the Skull where Jesus was crucified, it was not the tomb where Jesus was buried, but it was the house of Caiaphas where Jesus went after he was arrested at Gethsemane. The house of Caiaphas was no ordinary house. It consisted of his judicial chamber, torture chamber and detention chamber. When prisoners were brought to his house, they were escorted into a grand torture room in the basement. There detention cells that were pits in the ground 15 to 20 ft. deep where the prisoners were dropped into. The basement was dark and gloomy. As I walked through the tunnels and corridors of the prison, the walls echoed every step and whispers sounded like screams. As soon as I entered the torture dungeon, my mind was flooded with images of Jesus being tied to the posts, of being whipped, beaten and disfigured by the hands of angry guards. Then we were lead to the detention pits. The only way in and out of the pit was by a rope or ladder. The pits were narrow holes in the ground and there was no room to lie down. All I could envision was Jesus standing in this pit of darkness, bleeding, hurting and praying to the Father for courage and strength to do His will. Finally the tour guide led us to the light of day. I was outside on a courtyard overlooking the city. In the middle of the court yard was a large bronze statue of Peter and a Rooster. This was the courtyard where Peter denied Jesus three times (vs. 69-75). I stood there in anguish trying to comprehend why Peter denied Jesus, especially since Jesus was suffering in the dungeon below and was about to die for Peter's sake.

In that very moment of great pain and torment, Jesus needed the support and encouragement of Peter. Jesus needed Peter to pray for Him, to speak forth about Him, and to testify about Him. Instead, Peter swore that he never knew this man, named Jesus. Then I looked into my own spirit and I was convicted of my own sin. I heard the Rooster crow three times as I stood there on that courtyard. I was admitting my own shortcomings and failures to Jesus.

We are no different than Peter. We have all denied Jesus at one time or another. There have been many instances when the Lord has asked us to proclaim and testify of Him, and instead we stand silent. There have been situations where He has asked us to visit or pray for someone, and instead we walk away voiceless. There have been dire circumstances in someone's life where our financial resources were needed, and instead we clinched our pockets. In each of these instances, we disowned the Lord and instigated the Rooster to crow.

*"Immediately a rooster crowed. Then Peter [we] remembered
The word Jesus has spoken: Before the rooster crows,
You will disown me three times." Vs. 75*

What is amazing about this story is that three days after Peter denied Jesus and the rooster crowed, Peter was the main Preacher at the Pentecost conference in the upper room. This event teaches us about God's grace, mercy and forgiveness. Yes, each of us has a little bit of Peter in us, but not matter how many times we curse ourselves for not being able to live up to God's expectations or standards, God forgives us of our sins and restores us into His kingdom of righteousness through the blood He shed on the cross.

The Rooster needs to be a figurative reminder to each of us that we all fall short of the Glory of God. The Rooster should be a visual prompt to be obedient to the Spirit's conviction. The Rooster ought to be a symbolic reminder of our sinful flesh that led Christ to the cross.

I encourage each of you to purchase a Rooster adornment for the Easter season. Use the Rooster embellishment as a constant reminder that if Peter could be forgiven for his sin and made righteous, so can you. Because of Christ's death on the cross, forgiveness is yours to claim.

Have a Blessed Easter,
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