

Peter

“Lent, A Monologue”



“Just then a rooster crowed. Peter remembered what Jesus had said: “Before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times.” He went out and cried and cried and cried.”
John 26:75

“I had been to the mountain top. I knew Jesus as a personal friend and Lord. I was sure that He was the Messiah. I had everything going for me, but I still had that human weakness. Maybe I was really afraid for my life, deep down. I felt sure the authorities were going to kill Jesus. I didn’t know why exactly. I knew that many people were following His teaching. I must have been so stupid in my humanness to think that if I pretended I didn’t know Him, I wouldn’t be killed with him.

“None of the other disciples had as much exposure to Christ as I did. I had the honor of being told by Christ about the corner stone of the church. I really thought I was someone special. Yet, I was a simple fisherman. I wanted to be like Christ and walk on water, but when Christ called me to go to him I got out of the boat, stepped on the water, and my humanness took over again! The wind kicked up, the waves rolled, and I began to sink. Christ reached out, caught me, and questioned *“Why did you doubt, O ye of little faith.”*”

“On that eventful night in Gethsemane, Jesus told us that things were going to get tough, but that we did not have to worry.

“I immediately spoke up and assured Him that even if everyone else turned against Him, I would not. I would always believe. He told me that I would deny Him three times. This struck me deeply. I loved Him as my Lord and Savior. I told Him I would die with Him and the others agreed. Little did we know what would happen.

“Christ felt a need to pray and asked us to watch. I fell asleep; I should have been praying also. All He asked was for us to watch. “What did we have to watch for?

“Nothing was going to happen. When He came back and saw us sleeping, He chastised me and told me I was weak. He didn’t scold me, but He told me that a part of me was willing, but a part of me was also weak. And, when He left to pray again, I fell asleep again. Three

times we fell asleep.

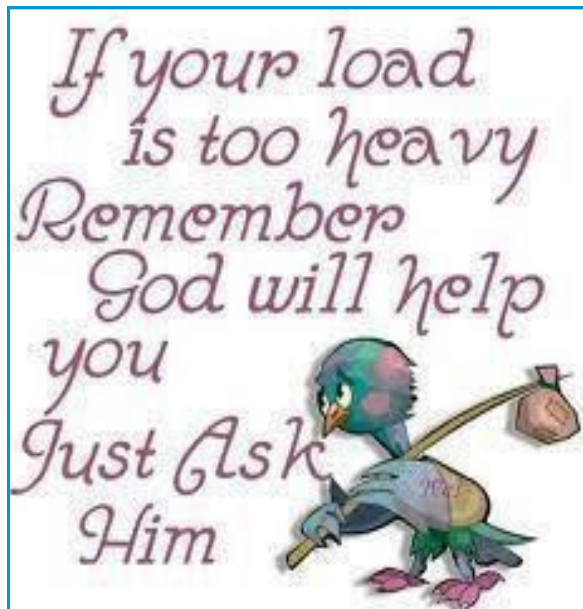
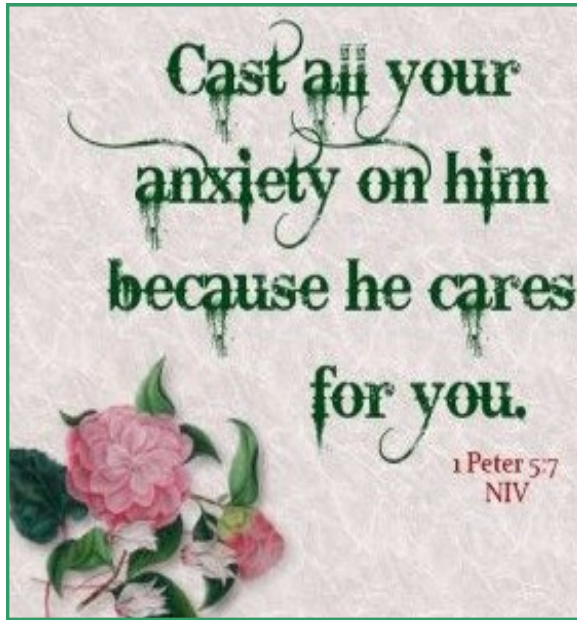
“Soon after He finished praying, the authorities came with swords and clubs. Jesus didn’t even put up a fight. I drew my sword and cut the ear of one of the Chief Priest’s servants. Jesus told me to put the sword away, and then He healed the servant’s ear. I had acted on impulse and been so foolish. I was afraid, and we ran for our lives. I followed at a distance just to see what was happening. I was a coward. They took Him to Caiaphas the Chief Priest. Jesus answered the questions with the truth and that upset them even more.

“As I was sitting there, one of the servant girls came up to me and asked me if I had been with Jesus, the Galilean. I told her that I didn’t know what she was saying. I denied Him again and moved out of her eye sight.

“But, then another person recognized me and asked if I had been with Jesus the Galilean. Again I said that I had never even seen Him. I didn’t know what they were asking. Others asked me and said that my accent gave me away. I said again, *‘I don’t know the man.’* I know they knew me. I was so afraid for myself, not for Jesus. Then the rooster crowed, and I wept. Jesus had known my weaknesses. But He forgave me, and I dedicated the rest of my life to telling others about this magnificent man from Galilee.

“All of us had opportunities to see Jesus after He arose from the grave. And He forgave us, especially me for my sins—my being so sure of myself.

“He gave me a great assignment. It wasn’t hard, and I wanted to do whatever I could. My world had been forever changed. And I knew that my feet were made of clay. I was weak but He was so strong. I realized this rough and tough fisherman who fought the winds and the waves was really very frail.”



A well-known old gospel song may well have been Peter’s prayer then and can be ours today.

Just A Closer Walk With Thee

*“I am weak, but Thou art strong;
Jesus, keep me from all wrong;
I’ll be satisfied as long
As I walk, let me walk close to Thee.*

*“Through this world of toil and snares,
If I falter, Lord, who cares?
Who with me my burden shares?
None but Thee, dear Lord, none but
Thee.*

*“When my feeble life is o’er,
Time for me will be no more;
Guide me gently, safely o’er
To Thy kingdom shore, to Thy shore.*

Refrain

*“Just a closer walk with Thee,
Grant it, Jesus, is my plea,
Daily walking close to Thee,
Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.”*

Later in Peter’s life, he would write many things about his time with Christ and the unfailing love that he felt in the book in the Bible that he wrote. For more references on Peter at the time of the crucifixion see Matthew 26:33-75; Mark 14: 29-72; Luke 11:8-62 and Luke 24:12; and John 18:10-27 and John 20:2-6.

**To forgive is to set a prisoner free
and discover that the prisoner
was you.**

Lewis B. Smedes

Prayer: God, we know that You know our weaknesses, and we know that You know our strengths. We know that You do not expect us to be super humans, but only to do our best. Help us to stand up for You, to realize that You will always give us the strength and wisdom we need if we ask. Help us to lead our lives in daily communication with You. Amen.

1. Peter was the one chosen by Jesus to lead many people to eternal life. Why was Peter so weak when he needed to be strong?
2. Do we ever deny Christ? How?
3. When we are asked if we are a Christian, how do we respond?
4. Are we blessed so that we can be a blessing to others?
5. Faith is believing in what we cannot see or explain. Was that easy for Peter? Is it easy for you? For me?

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