

For Reflection:

Here is good evidence about how our reactions to situations give away the things about us that we really don't want people to know. After the third time Peter is charged with being a disciple of Jesus, he blows up. And if we couldn't relate to Peter before, we probably will now. At this point some of the courtyard crew may have deemed themselves mistaken about Peter's association with Jesus.

Jesus was innocent of the charges of denigrating God, because he was in fact The One who was Anointed to usher in the Kingdom of God. Peter was guilty of "knowing" Jesus—and he did know *something* of him. He knew first hand of Jesus' compassion for others. The problem may have been that Peter knew, too, of Jesus' power. He had seen Jesus heal sick people, raise dead people, feed hungry people (a whole lot of them all at one time—twice!). Peter had witnessed the casting out of demons, the calming of storms, and walking on water.

Peter believed that Jesus was who he claimed to be. The thing that caused Peter to fall over his beloved cornerstone was that Peter had ideas about what this kingdom of heaven would look like; how it would operate; and who Peter would be in it. Peter, "the Galilean," the "uneducated peasant" was hoping for higher status, more regal respect, a more winning situation than this debacle. (Mk 9:33-34).

Today's Scripture:

After a little while, those standing near said to Peter, "Surely you are one of them, for you are a Galilean. "He began to call down curses, and he swore to them, "I don't know this man you're talking about"

(Mark 14:70b-71 NIV).

Questions to Ponder:

Let's continue to sit with Peter today. When has Jesus let you down? It's okay to admit it. We have the Psalms to prove that, and besides omniscient God knows already. Hear Jesus ask, "What do you want me to do for you?" (Mk 10:36). Don't forget to be honest. How does your answer compare to the things that Jesus did?

Prayer:

Prince of Peace, is it possible that you have a better idea of what constitutes a perfect kingdom than do I? Open the eyes of my heart, Lord, open the eyes of my heart. Amen.

Practice:

The Prayer of Recollection - to rest in God and allow God to calm and heal your fragmented and distracted self.

Intentionally come into the presence of God. Thank Jesus for being present with you. Ask Jesus to gather up the distracting thoughts so you can focus on his love, and rest in his presence. If there are things you feel you need to confess or ask of him, do so, and then go back to quiet rest.

(Adapted from *The Spiritual Discipline Handbook*, Adele Ahlberg Calhoun/The Prayer of Recollection).