

For Reflection:

Peter! Jesus is captive upstairs in a private dwelling, and dealing with Caiaphas the head honcho and his 70+ henchmen. They're making false accusations (claiming Jesus is a blasphemer) and lying about the facts to substantiate them. They are abusing Jesus verbally and wounding him physically.

You, Peter, have been accused by a girl. It's a girl, Peter.... a SERVANT girl. She has identified you as knowing "that Nazarene" (which was something like a racial slur in that era) Jesus—which, by the way, is every bit as true as Jesus being The Messiah. You are not in a court room either, but a courtyard—a little closer to the public's hearing. No one has lain a hand on you, Peter, in fact, the last time we knew, you were waving around a sword.

Jesus pleads, "I AM" to the charge brought against him.

You say, in essence, "I am not."

Jesus is condemned to die.

Who will condemn you, Peter, the hired help?

Jesus stands front and center.

You are hiding in a doorway.

Jesus is on a higher level.

Peter, you are down.

Sigh.

Today's Scripture:

When the servant girl saw [Peter] there, she said again to those standing around, "This fellow is one of them." Again, he denied it. (Mark 14:69-70a NIV).

Questions to Ponder:

We, who have read subsequent chapters on this matter, know how things turn around for Peter. Remember this is Lent—a time to repent; an opportunity to identify and clear away the things that get in the way of our connection to God. So, let's just stay with Peter's failure for now.

Can you identify with Peter's dilemma? What do you think Jesus wanted from his disciples? — from you? If you were charged with "knowing that Nazarene, Jesus" what evidence would be used to convict you?

Prayer:

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin (Psalm 51, NIV). 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)

