

For Reflection:

The rooster crowed and Peter came to his senses. We wonder if the bird's bold trumpeting suddenly reminded Peter of all the times he had "crowed" about the things he would do for Jesus. Peter not only denied Jesus but did so THREE times. Three is a significant number in the Bible (three persons in the Godhead; three days in the tomb; three crosses; three disciples who are close to Jesus; Jonah spent three days in the whale's belly; etc.). Indivisible, as in math, and stable, as legs on a stool, the number three denotes fullness, perfection, finality. Peter had utterly and completely repudiated Jesus and this realization utterly and completely broke Peter. He wept, and the original language says he wailed—right there in front of everyone—probably even the girl.

Peter had renounced Jesus, but we have to notice that Peter didn't abandon Jesus totally. He desired to be close to Jesus. Was it because he wanted to help Jesus in some way? Was he waiting and watching for Jesus to do some miracle to turn things around? Was his dedication to Jesus so profound he couldn't help himself? Was it all of the above?

The book of Mark is written to a persecuted church. The author is showing how to be a disciple in times of "trial." Peter didn't do his homework so he wasn't prepared, but we have to give him credit for sticking with Jesus. Judas gave up on Jesus and that led to his sad end. Peter, in the face of danger wasn't gallant, wasn't honest, wasn't comfortable but he was there.

Today's Scripture:

Immediately the rooster crowed the second time. Then Peter remembered the word Jesus had spoken to him: "Before the rooster crows twice you will disown me three times." And he broke down and wept (Mark 14:72 NIV).

Questions to Ponder:

How does Jesus offer us stability (stay-ability)? In times of trial, would you rather be close to Jesus or somewhere else? What is the reason for your answer?

Prayer:

Perfect God, I have a long way to go to reach anything close to perfection. I would like to stop acting like the opposite is true. Help me be honest with myself. Help me trust your love for me as I am so I can get over myself. Amen.

(More below)

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)