

THE CROWING OF THE ROOSTER

Matthew 26:30-35; 69-75; Mark 14:26-31; 66-72; Luke 22:31-34; 54-62; John 13:31-38; 18:15-27

The dark shadows of yesterday began to slip away quietly as the light of the eastern sky began its trek over the horizon to announce in Jerusalem that another day was coming. But that new day would not be like any other. Jerusalem was alive with activity. The noisy streets were already busy with crowds of people talking about a serious event, the arrest of the Nazarene who was called Jesus. His close followers were not to be seen, that is all except Simon Peter. He stood in the darkness of the night near a fire observing what was happening to Jesus, and to get some warmth, for the night was chilly. To a young lady who thought she recognized him, Peter denied that he knew Jesus. To a part of the angry crowd he also denied knowing Jesus. And to a servant of the high priest and also a relative of Malchus whose ear Peter had severed but Jesus healed, Peter likewise denied knowing the Nazarene.

High on the pinnacle of a nearby building or atop a tall fence post, that bugler of the barnyard heralded the dawning of a new day. The rooster crowed. Each of the four Gospels includes Jesus' prediction that before the rooster would crow, Peter would deny Jesus three times. Likewise, each of the four Gospels records the three times that prophecy was fulfilled. It is the Beloved Physician Luke who expresses the account so clearly:

"While he (Peter) was still speaking, the rooster crowed. And the Lord turned and looked at Peter. Then Peter remembered the word of the Lord ... (and) Peter went out and wept bitterly." (Luke 22:60-62)

"A rooster crowed, and Peter remembered..." (Matthew 26:75) The Bible declares that Peter remembered the prophetic statement of Jesus to him: *"...even this night, before the rooster crows twice, you will deny Me three times."* (Mark 14:30) Yes, **Peter remembered His authority ... at the crowing of the rooster.**

Perhaps another scene raced into Peter's memory. It was that night storm, with frightened disciples, and Jesus asleep in the stern of the small boat. They awakened Him, and *"He arose and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, 'Peace, be still!' And the wind ceased and there was a great calm."* (Mark 4:39) And **Peter remembered His sovereignty ... at the crowing of the rooster.**

Flashing through his mind there was surely that high moment when Jesus asked the disciples: *"Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?"* And then He asked: *"But who do you say that I am?"* (Matthew 16:13, 15) Yes, it was Peter who responded and said *"You are the Christ, the son of the living God."* (Matthew 16:16) In that moment **Peter remembered His deity ... at the crowing of the rooster.**

What else did Peter remember? Perhaps a mountain scene rushed through his memory ... that day when Jesus took him, along with James and John, and on a high mountain *"He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light."* (Matthew 17:2) And **Peter remembered His glory ... at the crowing of the rooster.**

And again, Peter could well have remembered that day, the Triumphal Entry, when Jesus entered into Jerusalem riding on the foal of a donkey, and the crowds shouted *"Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD! Hosanna in the highest!"* (Matthew 21:9) **Peter remembered His majesty ... at the crowing of the rooster.**

Peter could never forget those words of Jesus to him: *"Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat. But I have prayed for you that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren."* (Luke 22:31, 32) In that solemn moment when the eyes of Jesus focused on him, piercing his very heart, **Peter remembered His unfailing love ... at the crowing of the rooster.**

And may we too **remember** how He walks with us, talks to us, comforts us, strengthens us, encourages us, holds us, and loves us unconditionally! When ***the rooster crows*** may God help us to remember!

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