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Theme: Cheap Talk

Scripture: Matthew 26:33-35: Peter replied, *“Even if all fall away on account of you, I never will.”* *“Truly I tell you,”* Jesus answered, *“this very night, before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times.”* But Peter declared, *“Even if I have to die with you, I will never disown you.”* And all the other disciples said the same.”

A Thought: Within hours after the above prophetic words were spoken the most significant event in history played its course on the well-traveled road to Golgotha. The Son of God after being viciously beaten by thuggish military, mocked and humiliated by uncaring crowds slowly carried the heavy wooden cross to the stony hill on the outskirts of Jerusalem. A conspicuous site to be sure for other mortals who would realize the same if they did not follow the Roman dictates. Where were the men, the disciples who were once willing to take on the Roman thugs? The men who followed Jesus for three years became inconspicuous in a very conspicuous historical epoch. The historical figure Simon Peter, ‘Cephas’ the Rock, (Matthew 16:17-19) the impetuous and feisty soul of our faith was not within an ear shot to hear the anguish cries of our Lord. During Jesus’ ministry Peter prayed, broke bread, shared thoughts, and was an eye witness to unbelievable miracles. On all accounts he was a charter member of the inner circle. I don’t know if he was being interrogated or headed for the hills...the fact is the big talker wasn’t present at the crucifixion. Though several women followers of Jesus were there until Jesus’ last gasp. As Jesus stated in Matthew 26:33-35 Peter and others shied away from the Messiah, King of Kings and the Lord of Lords.

Now....what are your thoughts? Write them down.

Talk to yourself:

- Have you heard the rooster lately?
- When and where have you denied Jesus?
- Are you in the midst of a luke-warm syndrome?
- How wide, how deep and how long is your love for Christ?

Scriptures to read:

- Matt. 10:32-33, 26:69-79; Mark 8:38; Luke 9:23; John 3:16; Romans 1:28, 10:13;
- Acts 2:38; Ephesians 6:11; 2 Timothy 1:8, 2:12; 1 Peter 5:8-9; 2 Peter 2:1;
- 1 John 2: 22-23, 4:1

Quote: Zac Poonen, Bible Teacher and Author,

"God is looking for men and women who will never be content with mere experiences and "blessings," but who will take up the cross daily and follow Jesus and thus manifest in their lives and in their service the reality of those words, 'It is no longer I, but Christ that lives in me.' This, and this alone is the Spirit-filled life."

Bottom Line:

Peter's boastful manner and denials are not to be taken lightly. If the story ended there possibly you may look at Peter with a jaundice eye and rank him as a loser. The Lord had other plans and Peter became a stalwart missionary for Christ. He understood the ramifications of fear, disobedience, laziness and unpreparedness... (1st Peter 8-9a) *"Be sober! Be on the alert! Your adversary the Devil is prowling around like a roaring lion, looking for anyone he can devour. Resist him, remain firm in the faith..."* Gents, sadly we live in a world of dichotomy. When things are going great...Oh, you have the spiritual jargon down pat, quote scriptures, do all the right things, tithe, attend Bible study and such. But when it turns sour you play a Peter. Or when life is tough and not dandy you move closer to the Lord and when the Lord bestows you with tremendous blessings....you slowly drift away. Cheap talk. In closing remember this on Easter Sunday...the nails on the cross were our sins. The sinless one our Lord Jesus died because He loved us. *"For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him."* (2 Corinthians 5:21 NIV).

NOW.....THAT'S THE BOTTOM LINE.

Spiritual Dabbler, Your bro, Ray

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