

Lent Day 39
Friday March 25, 2016
Good Friday

Reading: Mark 14.66-72

Reflection

Years ago I was in Rwanda and Congo for a vision trip. One morning, while waiting for our bus, I heard a rooster crow. My mind went immediately to this scene and I have to confess I felt a stab of guilt, like I had denied Jesus. Of course, I tried to console myself that I hadn't. But, hadn't I? It hasn't always been easy to stand with Jesus.

At 21, when I came to faith, I would see old friends and we would catch up. I'd hear about what they had been up to — work or school — and then they would ask me. As I would tell them I was going to Bible College I could see the horror wash over their faces. I could see they wanted to pull away from me physically. I could see the wheels in their mind trying to figure out how to nicely tell me 'no thank you' to the sales pitch they were sure was coming. It got to the point where I hoped I saw no one I knew from my old life.

But worse than that were the times and places when I just acted like my old self. My actions and language just fit in. I would rationalize it saying, this would help when I went to tell them about Jesus, they would know I was cool so sincere. The truth is I just wanted them to like me and not fear me. I knew I wasn't doing right.

So, the rooster crows and we cry. The truth is we deny Jesus more than we should, more than we want. What sustains us is God's grace. He is determined to restore us. What motivates us is God's Spirit. He empowers us to give proper witness. God himself changes the rooster's crow to the angel's choir.

Prayer

Lord of mercy and grace, forgive us for the ways in which we deny you. Strengthen us so we might stand faithfully for you and bear witness to your good news. Amen.