

Lent Day 36

Tuesday March 27, 2018

Reading: John 18:25-27

²⁵ Meanwhile, Simon Peter was still standing there warming himself. So they asked him, “You aren’t one of his disciples too, are you?”

He denied it, saying, “I am not.”

²⁶ One of the high priest’s servants, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, challenged him, “Didn’t I see you with him in the garden?” ²⁷ Again Peter denied it, and at that moment a rooster began to crow.

Reflection

There’s a scene in the movie *Deadpool* where Colossus is explaining to Deadpool that being a hero comes down to four or five moments. It is, in fact, these few moments which distinguish a person as a hero rather than something else. This is in contrast to a common misbelief that a person is always or never a hero. We might call these defining moments and Peter is facing one.

Peter is in a terrible spot. He has pledged himself to this Jesus of Nazareth. He has believed he is the promised Messiah. He has seen and heard things he can’t explain any other way. This man is from God and he has come to Jerusalem. Jesus has explained to his disciples that the way is going to be rough and Peter has promised to stand by Jesus. Jesus has predicted all his disciples will fall away. Peter says, not me. He wasn’t allowed to fight in the garden against a greater force, so he’s followed to be on hand for the next move.

However, he’s standing right in the heart of enemy territory. Unlike his friend he isn’t connected to the right people. He’s big, so he stands out. He’s been seen swinging his sword. Suddenly, one of those defining moments sneaks up on him. He’s repeatedly asked point blank if he is a follower of Jesus — the one currently on trial receiving a death sentence. He fails. Again, and again, and again he says no, I’m not. Peter is no more of a superhero than Deadpool is.

Or you and me. We’re not heroes either are we? It’s easy to say we’re Jesus followers when we’re surrounded by fellow believers, or religious folk, or neutral friends. But, when we’re faced with a hostile crowd who paint our faith with the blackest of colours and we’re all alone it’s hard to put our hand up and say that’s me. Fortunately, being a Christian doesn’t come by four or five moments where we choose right and perform right. It comes through the faithfulness of the one on trial and we receive it as grace.

Prayer

Jesus, thank you for faithfully standing through your trial even while we fail to stand through ours. Your grace is truly amazing and we certainly don’t deserve it. Strengthen us to stand in the face of coming trials. Amen.