

Short Devotion: Am Imagined Letter From Peter...

I've imagined a letter from Peter:

Dear disciples,

I was so ready! Or at least I thought so.

Jesus was saying that Satan has been allowed to test me – well that sounds weird!

I just said, it's ok, I'm with you to the end; wherever you go Jesus, I'll go with you.

At the time I didn't think he'd heard me properly

He said, Peter, I tell you the cock will not crow this day until you have denied me three times.'

'Confused.Peter' That was me! What's a cockcrow got to do with anything?

Well; turns out he was right – again!

Come to think if it, he was never wrong even when I didn't understand him – but that was never a problem either. It's not like he Lorded it over me and I was never jealous or put off by him being right.

Guess that's why I said I'd follow him to the ends of the earth if necessary.

Anyhow, back to the point.

When Jesus was arrested I was true to my promise! I didn't run away but I got my trusty knife out – that's seen many a fish I can tell you. I slashed the ear off one of the guards who dared lay his hands onto Jesus.

Yeah, – Jesus told me off for that one – and healed the guy. Quick as a flash – the soldier had his ear back.

So off they went. I hadn't given up yet, so I followed them at a safe distance and saw them take Jesus to the high priest's house.

I joined the servants by the fire wondering what I should do, it was a very confusing time. A servant-girl suddenly spoke up and said I was with Jesus.

I didn't even think about it; 'whoa, not me!' I just needed to time to figure out what to do, I felt so out of my depth.

While I was figuring out what my next move should be – come and find some of you perhaps, someone else piped up: 'This man' (pointing at me) He was with Jesus too.

'No, I'm not' I said... well, I wasn't ready to be attacked by a lynch mob!

I could see Jesus over in the courtyard now. I felt paralysed with fear; I know I wasn't much help over by the wall, but I didn't want to leave him; so there I was stuck between a rock and a hard place.

Should I leave him and come and find you guys? – but then I'd be breaking my word

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Should I stay by the wall and watch? – and still I wasn't keeping my word because I wasn't really with him, just a spectator in the crowd. And yet, I was nailed to the spot - couldn't move.

Do you know, another guy then speaks up, looking at me and says, yes, I'm sure man is a Galilean with Jesus'

'No, No' I protested and that's when it happened.

Just as I was saying that the cock-crowed and Jesus turned around and looked at me – square in the eyes.

I was like a rabbit caught in the torch light – transfixed on those deep, penetrating eyes. Then I knew. It just hit me.

I have to confess to you my friends that I just broke down; no fighting heroics this time; no best foot forwards; just utter shame, loss and collapse of both physical and spiritual strength... empty, really, really empty.

I've heard since that John went to the crucifixion; sorry I couldn't cope with that, but I've arranged to meet him back at Mary's place; John Mark's mother.

Why don't you all come over? We can spend the Sabbath day together.

Love, Peter

Devotion:

Has 'Peter's letter' struck a chord in your heart of times when you've felt like you've abandoned Jesus? There are times when we all struggle to live up to Jesus' commands and promises over us. As a time of personal reflection, can you think of times where you feel you've let Jesus down?

- (i) In my imagined letter, Peter turns to the disciples for help. We too need a close spiritual friend or two that we can share disappointments with – are you in a small group of two or three to enable this? If not, spend some time thinking about who the other(s) could be.
- (ii) What tempts you the most in challenging your walk with Jesus? Use a bookmark size piece of paper and write the temptation. Look up a scripture that can help fight or overcome that temptation and write it on the opposite side. When you are being tempted, read both sides again.