

Wednesday of Holy Week – Meditation

Opening music – When I survey the wondrous cross

Introduction

Today we think of Simon Peter, the man who denied Jesus. We listen again to the Gospel, and we ask, through music and meditation what Peter might have said could he have put his side of the story.

Through looking and listening, and through silence, let us seek once more to enter with our hearts and minds and souls into those last few days of Jesus before his crucifixion, asking what they may have to say to us in the strange circumstances we find ourselves in today.

Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ,
you were under no illusions
about those you called to follow you.
You knew that Peter would deny you
and the rest of the apostles forsake you,
yet still you continued on your way to the cross.
Lord Jesus Christ
we marvel at your amazing grace
that goes beyond our understanding.
Help us as we recall the story of Peter
to appreciate the wonder of your love for us.
Amen.

Luke 22.54-62 is read.

‘Then they seized him and led him away, bringing him into the high priest’s house. But Peter was following at a distance. When they had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and sat down together, Peter sat among them. Then a servant girl, seeing him in the firelight, stared at him and said, ‘This man was also with him.’ But he denied it, saying, ‘Woman, I do not know him.’ A little later someone else, on seeing him, said, ‘You also are one of them.’ But Peter said, ‘Man, I am not!’ Then an hour later still another kept insisting, ‘Surely this man also was with him; for he is a Galilean.’ But Peter said, ‘Man I do not know what you are talking about!’ At that moment, while he was still speaking, the cock crowed. The Lord turned and looked at Peter. Then Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said to him, ‘Before the cock crows today, you will deny me three times.’ And he went out and wept bitterly.’

Meditation – He warned me it would happen (Nick Fawcett)

He warned me it would happen,
told me exactly how it would be,
but I just didn't believe him.
If he'd said anyone else I'd have thought otherwise –
I mean you can't trust anyone finally can you, not even your friends?
And, to be honest, I expected a few of them to cave in
when the pressure was on.
But me, I felt I was different.
It was me after all whom he called to be his first disciple,
me who realised he was the Messiah
Wen the rest were groping around in the dark,
Me he called 'The Rock'.
And I thought I was just that:
unshakeable
firm
dependable.
I'm not saying I was better than anyone else,
just that my faith always seemed stronger.
So I told him,
confidently,
proudly,,
'Though all else will fail you I will not'.
Lord I am ready to die for you'.
God, how those words haunt me now,
how stupid they make me feel.
If only I'd kept my mouth shut,
if only I hadn't been so full of myself,
if only I'd had more courage.
We all failed him, all of us in our own way.
They look at me and say, 'He denied him.'
They talk of Judas and say, 'He betrayed him.'
They point at the others and say, 'They abandoned him.'
Well let them judge if they want to.
Let them imagine they're a cut above the rest;
I've learnt the hard way that I'm not.

Silence

Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ,

you could have chosen anyone
as the foundation for your church,
but you didn't;
you chose Peter –
the man who misunderstood you,
who denied you,
who failed you time and time again.
A man we might have written off,
but who you saw instead as a rock
on which to build your kingdom.
Lord Jesus Christ,
when we feel uncertain and unsure,
remind us of Peter
and help us to believe you can use us.
Amen

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.

Blessing

In the passion of the Lord is our protection,
in his suffering is our salvation,
in his hurt is our healing,
in his death is our deliverance
and the blessing of Almighty God
the Father, Son and Holy Spirit
be upon us and remain with us always.
Amen.

Closing music –_What wondrous love is this