

Matthew 26:69-75
The Haunting Rooster

Before daybreak ...

- I. Simon, Simon
 - A. Pre-fall Peter

 - B. And His Lord
- II. Devastating Denial
 - A. Anguished Exchanges

 - B. An Agonizing Crow

 - C. And a Bitter Memory
- III. Redeeming Grace
 - A. Recognizing Failure

 - B. Restoration & Renewal

... the dawn of a dreadful day.

Children, Listen ...

1. What was happening to Jesus?
2. Why did Peter say he didn't know Jesus?
3. What happened right after he did that three times?
4. Had Jesus warned him that that would happen?
5. Would Peter ever be forgiven for his sin?

A Rude Awakening

I was always under the impressions that roosters only cock-a-doodle-dooed first thing in the morning. That is, until the folks next door decided to get some! Oh, they start in the morning, but I have discovered they can crow all day long if they feel like it. Frankly it can get a little annoying (sorry neighbors!). I can only imagine, if the noisy beasts irritate me at times, how aggravating it must have been for Peter to hear the haunting sound of the rooster that testified to his unfaithfulness on that fateful morning. While Jesus was undergoing the brutality of a corrupt trial, Peter had denied Jesus three times, just before the rooster crowed at the break of dawn. He was well aware of his offenses against the Lord, but the alarm that confirmed Jesus' previous warning to him must have penetrated deeply into his already agitated soul. His anguish was so great he began to call down curses on himself. Peter was rudely awakened to his own weakness and failure. In the moment he probably did not harken back to Jesus' comforting words assuring him that He had prayed for him. But Simon Peter would eventually be restored to Jesus' favor. Some of us can relate to Peter. Perhaps there have been times when you, in a moment of fear, timidity, embarrassment or by simple silence have, in effect, denied Jesus. You probably have not forgotten that (any more than Peter would forget the sights and sounds of that horrible incident), hopefully you have grieved over it, but don't leave it there - take your sin and sorrow to the Lord and seek His forgiveness and restoration so you can move ahead with a clear conscience and new resolve to stand firm and testify. While you're at it, why not ask Him for a renewed boldness to testify to the Lordship of Jesus Christ and His wonderful Gospel.