

STATIONS OF THE CROSS Reflections by Jenny Hawke

4. DISLOYALTY

Jesus is let down by his closest friend. Peter had been with Jesus since the very beginning. If Jesus had a best friend, it was Peter. Now Jesus was in big trouble. He was under arrest and could be facing the death penalty. Did Peter stand by him? No, he pretended he didn't know him, not once, but again and again.

Peter must have hated himself, especially when he remembered that Jesus had once predicted that he would do just that. Jesus knew him better than he knew himself. He wept bitterly, partly for good the friend he was losing, but also for the bad friend he had become.

'Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. And a servant girl came up to him and said, "You also were with Jesus the Galilean." But he denied it before them all, saying, "I do not know what you mean." And when he went out to the entrance, another servant girl saw him, and she said to the bystanders, "This man was with Jesus of Nazareth." And again he denied it with an oath: "I do not know the man." After a little while the bystanders came up and said to Peter, "Certainly you too are one of them, for your accent betrays you." Then he began to invoke a curse on himself and to swear, "I do not know the man." And immediately the rooster crowed. And Peter remembered the saying of Jesus, "Before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times." And he went out and wept bitterly.' Matthew 26 v 69-75

I wanted the scene to be quite stark with plain colour contrasts to show the utter despair in the figure of Peter. His humanity has broken his heart. He hoped to show a loyalty that was courageous but all he could do in the end was run. Jenny Hawke

Is there any way back after such a betrayal?



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