



3. Life Lessons from a Rooster

Tom Kelby and Mark Yaeger

Before Jesus died, Peter vastly overrated his own strength. He said that even if everyone else fell away because of Jesus, he would never fall away (Matthew 26:30-35). Yet, just a few hours later, he did fall away—with remarkable speed. The rooster’s crow brought everything into focus. At that point, he realized what he had done. He also realized, I believe, who he was.

I wonder how this one incident changed Peter’s life. I would imagine he was, from this point on, not one to boast of his own strength. His confidence in himself was certainly shaken. I am sure he didn’t take part in any more arguments with the disciples about who was the greatest. The young maid’s question and the rooster’s crow proved that he was not.

But I’m not so sure that this event was such a great tragedy in Peter’s life. For all the lessons Peter learned in the three years he spent with Jesus, I wonder if this wasn’t one of the greatest. It broke him. An unbroken man or woman is useless in the kingdom of God. This event left Peter with no confidence in himself. If he was to be confident from this day forward, it would have to be in Someone Else. “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven” (Matthew 5:3).

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