

The Denial!

Exhausted in body and weary of mind, Peter walked into the barn and lay on a pile of hay. His eyes closed as he drifted into a deep sleep. The events from two nights ago in the courtyard of the high priest Caiaphas came into view. A servant girl's face appeared. "You also were with Jesus of Nazareth," she said. He heard himself denying he knew Jesus. "I neither know nor understand what you are saying." Fitfully, he rolled over, seeing himself walk from a porch and hearing a rooster crow. The servant girl saw him again and said, "This is one of them." Peter heard himself denying he knew Jesus. Others standing near him said, "Surely you are one of them, for you are a Galilean, and your speech shows it." Peter heard himself cursing and swore, "I do not know this man of whom you speak!" Then he heard the rooster crow the second time and remembered Jesus' words spoken to him. (Mark 14:66-72, NKJV) He bolted up, trembling and drenched in sweat. "Oh, Lord, when will this nightmare end?" he cried. Sitting on the hay, he saw movement out of the corner of his eye. Something was coming towards him. Turning his head to the left, he saw a lamb standing beside his left leg. Then it lay on his lap and looked at him and bleated. Peter said to the lamb, "Jesus, who is now my Lord was sacrificed as a lamb. He will comfort me as I comfort you."

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Beloved, we may deny Jesus in various ways, but he is always willing to comfort, encourage, and help us. We desire an abundant life and struggle to get it. Our struggles bring suffering when we deny God's way. Instead, we must be still and know that Jesus is the LORD who heals and provides. Let him have his way with you! (2 Timothy 3:1-9, Jeremiah 30:17, Philippians 4:19) Shalom!!

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