



Holy Week Reflections

Wednesday of Holy Week

Luke 22:34

Jesus said, 'I tell you, Peter, the cock will not crow this day, until you have denied three times that you know me.'

Today's picture is a statue of Peter denying Jesus after he had been arrested. I wonder what it felt like for Peter to be told he would do this, to carry that burden, whilst vowing not to.

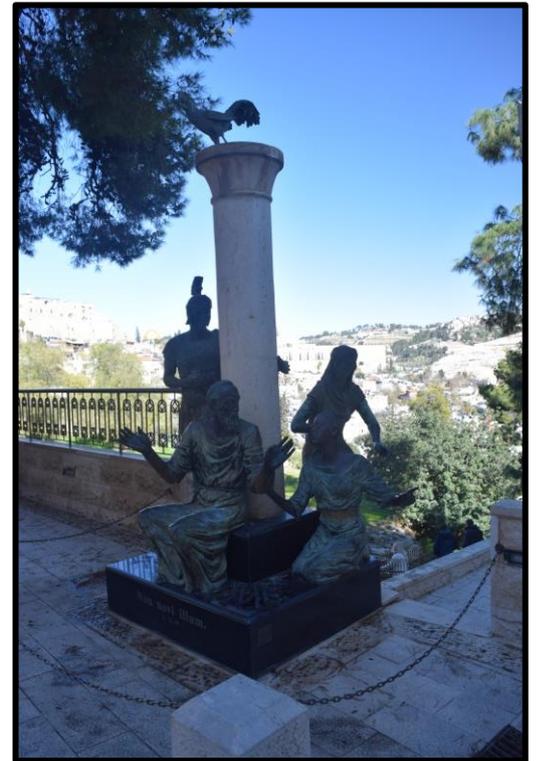
Deny you? I would never deny you!

Yet...

I ignored the old lady struggling to get her shopping because of the empty shelves, knowing my basket was full.
I have rushed through life, too busy to stop and chat.
Taken food for granted not thinking about who has grown it.
Stomped through the countryside not stopping to notice the hand of the creator.

Every time I ignore others, I deny you.
When I fail to stop and give thanks I miss seeing you.

Help me to feed your lambs; may I glimpse you in their faces.



About these reflections

In January 2019, I was blessed to go on pilgrimage to the Holy Land and to see some of the places where the historical events of Holy Week probably happened. Until I visited, it had never struck me how hard that last week in the city must have been for those essentially rural people. No wonder they walked down the hill from the city and up over the Mount of Olives to the village of Bethany each evening, to be among familiar friends and in a quieter place. No wonder Jesus sought solace and His Father in a garden. Life among stone and brick is hard when trees and soil and water and space are familiar.

Elizabeth Clark (National Rural officer for the Methodist and United Reformed Churches) and I have taken some of the photographs I took on that pilgrimage and reflected on episodes from that last week. These photographs and reflections are what we offer to you now. We are all in unfamiliar territory this week. Our world is changing around us so very quickly. None of us will be quite the same after this experience. We pray that these reflections might help you navigate this challenging Holy Week.

God bless you this Easter.

Revd Claire Maxim, CEO, Arthur Rank Centre

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