

Reminded of Sins

by Linville Dunaway, Corinth Christian Church

Matthew 26:69-75, "Now Peter sat without in the palace: and a damsel came unto him, saying, Thou also wast with Jesus of Galilee. But he denied before them all, saying, I know not what thou sayest. And when he was gone out into the porch, another maid saw him, and said unto them that were there, This fellow was also with Jesus of Nazareth. And again he denied with an oath, I do not know the man. And after a while came unto him they that stood by, and said to Peter, Surely thou also art one of them; for thy speech bewrayeth thee. Then began he to curse and to swear, saying, I know not the man. And immediately the cock crew. And Peter remembered the word of Jesus, which said unto him, Before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice. And he went out, and wept bitterly."

We know that when we come to the Lord he forgives us of our sins. While we are forgiven, we also know that we still remember them. Sometimes, something may cause us to be reminded of a sin we committed and we are thankful that God is merciful. I think of those in the bible who sinned and I'm sure they were reminded of them from

time to time.

Consider Peter and how he so confidently affirmed that he would never deny Jesus. All of the disciples said the same thing, but it was Peter who was talking the most about his loyalty to the Lord. He was the one who was put in a place to make good on his claim and given the opportunity to prove his promise. As we see in the scriptures, he failed all three chances to say, "Yes, I'm a believer in Jesus!" Not only did he deny the Lord but he even cursed and swore that he didn't even know the Lord as he tried to put as much distance between him and Jesus as he could.

Think of it - after that night every time Peter heard a rooster crow he was reminded of his failure. He may not have heard one every day, but it was bound to be a lot of days that he did. Each time he had to think back to the time of his shame and failure. In **Luke 22:61** it says that when Peter denied the third time that Jesus turned and looked at Peter. That had to break Peter's heart to realize that he had indeed done what the Lord has said he would do. He wept bitterly for he had really intended to honor his word, but he had relied on himself and failed.

There had to be times when Peter traveled somewhere to preach the gospel and he heard the crowing of the rooster. Perhaps Satan would try to tempt him to give up as it

reminded him of the time he failed. The evil one wants to discourage us by throwing our sins in our faces. The scriptures show how he is the accuser who wants to drag us down and cause us to give up. We can remember our faults without Satan's help. The main thing that we need to remember is that while we did sin, God is greater than our sins and he has forgiven us.

Paul was reminded as well whenever he was persecuted that he persecuted others in the past. He was responsible for the death and beatings of those he arrested for following Jesus. He knew also that Jesus forgave him, just as he forgave those who persecuted him. There are different things that might cause someone to remember some sins that were committed. I hope that with the remembrance is also that of God's mercy and forgiveness. The thought should be that God is greater than my sins.

King David comes to mind as another who may have had a reminder of his sins. We don't read of him repeating his sin of adultery and murder. Was he ever able to walk upon the roof of the palace without thinking of what transpired that night? There is little doubt that he wished that he had never done the sinful deeds that he had done. Thank God for his grace and mercy to mankind. Sure we are reminded of our sins, but let us also be reminded of his forgiveness.

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EVIL HAMAN
STUMBLING CLUMBSILY ON THE QUEEN IN HIS FRENZY OF FEAR TO BEG FOR HIS LIFE, HAMAN HAS FURTHER INCURRED THE KING'S WRATH AND IS DULY SENTENCED TO DEATH, NOW...

KILL HIM!

IF IT PLEASE THE KING, MAY I SPEAK?

HARBONAH, THE KING'S CHAMBERLAIN, MAKES A SUGGESTION...

BEHOLD, HAMAN HAD A GALLOWS CONSTRUCTED ON WHICH TO HANG MORDECAI WHO DID GOOD FOR THE KING--WOULD IT NOT BE FITTING...?

INDEED! HANG HIM THEREON!

AND SO IT IS THAT HAMAN ENDS HIS EVIL DAYS HANGED ON THE VERY SAME GALLOWS UPON WHICH HE HAD PLANNED TO HANG MORDECAI, ALL OF WHICH HAS BEEN RECORDED IN THE BOOK OF ESTHER: CHAPTERS, 3-7.

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