

How Jesus Tries to Protect You from Yourself

Written by Bill Perkins

"I am telling you now before it happens,
so that when it does happen you will believe."

- John 13:19

In the Upper Room Jesus warned them.
All of them.

Before a sword was drawn,
or a rooster crowed.

"Tonight you will all fall away because of Me."

- Matthew 26:31

And to Peter He said,

"Truly I tell you, this very night,
before the rooster crows,
you will deny Me three times."

- Matthew 26:34

A prophecy spoken as mercy,
a warning wrapped in love.

But Peter couldn't hear it.
Not through the thrum of his confidence.
Not through the story he told about himself.
Not through the belief
that he knew his own heart
better than Jesus knew it.

He never thought to ask,
"Lord, what am I not seeing?"

You may not know this about Jesus-
and neither did Peter-
His warnings are meant
to protect you from yourself.

He saw himself as brave in danger,
standing firm when threatened-
a strong tower no enemy could breach.
After all, he was the one
who stepped onto the water,
the one who declared,
"You are the Christ,
the Son of the living God."

Yes, he had stumbled-
but denial?

Never.

Not him.

Not the loyal one.

Not the strong one.

His problem wasn't emotion.
It wasn't even love.
It was a fault line he couldn't see-
a hairline crack in his soul
that pressure would widen,
splitting him open-
revealing a love of his own life
more than a love for Jesus,
a love of survival
more than a love for truth.

But pride sealed his lips,
and silence sealed his fate.

And that is one sorrow
of the Upper Room-
not the prophecy,
but the refusal to listen.

Where is Jesus whispering about a fault line
I can't see-
a warning meant to spare me,
a mercy spoken before pressure comes?

This passage reminds me Jesus speaks
before my breaking point.
His warnings are invitations-
to trust Him

before life's weight
reveals what I missed.
When I listen, I'm steadied.
When I ignore Him,
the fall becomes my teacher.

Father, show me the fault lines hidden in me.
Give me ears to hear Your warnings,
and a heart to respond,
Thank You for speaking
before I fall.
In Jesus' name, Amen.