

# STAGE FOUR

## THE ROOSTERS CROW



### **LISTEN - read - ponder - seed**

Listen to 'Lagrima di San Pietro' - The Tears of Saint Peter, by Luigi Tansillo 1560.

### **listen - READ - ponder - seed**

Now Peter was sitting out in the courtyard, and a servant girl came to him. "You also were with Jesus of Galilee," she said. But he denied it before them all. "I don't know what you're talking about," he said. Then he went out to the gateway, where another servant girl saw him and said to the people there, "This fellow was with Jesus of Nazareth." He denied it again, with an oath: "I don't know the man!" After a little while, those standing there went up to Peter and said, "Surely you are one of them; your accent gives you away." Then he began to call down curses, and he swore to them, "I don't know the man!" Immediately a rooster crowed. Then Peter remembered the word Jesus had spoken: "Before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times." And he went outside and wept bitterly. MATTHEW 26 v 69-75

### **listen - read - PONDER - seed**

The poem reflects upon Peter's interior experience in this moment of betrayal. The text says, "he wept bitterly", and it's emotive to think upon the poem's line, "not a single night in his remaining life passed without the cock's crow waking him up and reminding him how shamefully he behaved." Dark days for Peter. Though we know that Jesus later restored him, at this point in the story he has little consolation. The poverty of this moment, along with the grace of his subsequent restoration will, as the poem suggests, have lived with Peter for the rest of his days. Peter went on to lead the early Church and was martyred for faith in Jesus; a future no doubt to some degree strangely and profoundly dependent upon this moment, and yet at the very same time almost entirely out of view from it.

### **listen - read - ponder - SEED**

Experiences change us. We are shaped by them. Our futures are changed by them and in some senses dependent upon them. Take a piece of the clay and mould it as you ponder prayerfully the ways that you have been shaped through some of the hardest moments in your life, perhaps include some of the current challenges you are facing this year. Stick it to the cross when you are ready to.

