



Lent reflection for Tuesday, April 4th

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Matthew 26:31-35

Then Jesus said to them, ‘You will all become deserters because of me this night; for it is written, “I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.”

But after I am raised up, I will go ahead of you to Galilee.’ Peter said to him, ‘Though all become deserters because of you, I will never desert you.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Truly I tell you, this very night, before the cock crows, you will deny me three times.’ Peter said to him, ‘Even though I must die with you, I will not deny you.’ And so said all the disciples.

Today’s reflection is by Morgan McGuire

So sure... Truly just so certain... Peter is so sure of himself that he is like “man I will die before I...”. And the story ends with Peter denying Jesus three times before the cock crows. That technically isn’t the ending. It’s the middle really. But it feels like the end because Peter does the exact thing Jesus says he will do. But what I am hung up on is that in the middle Peter is so sure of his relationship and so certain of his own capacity to have fidelity to that relationship and he was wrong. Or maybe more accurately he couldn’t see the things inside of him that would make him deny Jesus three times. Maybe it was fear. Maybe it was something else... I don’t know...

But when I’m having a good day, I do wonder if Peter had just said “Probably, my dude. This is very scary. You’re my friend and you’re going to die. And what are we supposed to do with that?” And not to say Peter should have done that, but I would like to think Jesus would have said, “Yeah dude. It’s gonna suck. I appreciate the honesty. I also see your growth.” Because Peter for the first time could have been honest about how he and the circumstances of life meet each other. But he wasn’t there, which is fine.

But it all makes me think of the moments in life where I have been so sure of myself and so sure of my faith and then life happened... And instead of just saying "Jesus my dude I don't have it and I don't want to talk because I'm afraid or I am tired or this certain set of circumstances is making me question the entirety of the universe so I need a hard pause." I just pushed through. I prayed more. I read more. And I think I did all of that because it would have been tantamount to a denial for me to say "Jesus, my dude, I need a breather." I'd like to think that there is room for that, that breather.

I would like to think that there is room for these denials to say "This is a lot." And I would like to think that in even saying "THIS IS A LOT! And " I CANNOT" Maybe in that communication... maybe in that honesty I can know Jesus more. Maybe in that space I am closer to understanding who I am and closer to receiving and understanding mercy. I don't know. But I think being honest in those moments and claiming uncertainty instead of leaning on a certainty that cannot exist is a beautiful step into the unknown with Jesus. One I am trying to take more often.

Morgan McGuire attends Holy apostles and lives in Kensington. She is obsessed with her cat LSG aka the goose. And as a result she occasionally remembers that she is occupationally a playwright and actor.

