

THREE TIMES

By Paralee Eadie

Peter quickly followed Jesus
From the moment He called his name.
There was no thought of denial,
Forever faithful was his aim.

He even walked on water,
At least, part of the way.
He had to call out to Jesus,
Who reached out and saved him that day.

Three years he walked with Jesus his Lord.
Three times he pledged Him his love.
Three times Jesus said, "Feed My sheep."
Peter's destiny from above.

Betrayal came and then the arrest,
Crucifixion was soon to be.
Peter hung out on the sidelines,
Hoping that no one would see.

The Lord, whom he said he'd die for,
Three times he cursingly denied.
Then the cock crowed and oh the shame,
Oh the bitter tears he cried!

What about you, have you believed?
Or once did but turned away?
Has life become so hectic
That there's no time left to pray?

Jesus stands before you waiting,
Tenderly calling out your name.
His blood shed on the cross for you
Covers all your guilt and shame.

Today will you call Him Saviour?
From this point walk with Him anew?
He does not make it difficult,
Just take His hand and say, "I do!"

Read of these events in Matthew 26:69-75

How gracious and loving is the Lord. Three times Peter denied even knowing Jesus. And yet, just shortly before, he told Jesus he was ready to go to prison or even to death with Him. (Luke 22:31-34) On the third time Jesus appeared unto the disciples after His resurrection, three times He asked Peter, "Do you love Me?" And Peter, after having denied Jesus three times earlier, was given the privilege to tell his Lord three times that he loved Him. (John 21:1-17) What love! What grace!

Jesus has that same love and grace for you. Perhaps you've known the truth for a long time but never acted on it - put it off. Now you feel God doesn't want you anymore - you've missed your chance. Perhaps you've turned your back on Him because, like Peter, life did not go the way you expected. You felt let down by Jesus, so you walked away. Or maybe you feel you let Jesus down - failed in some great way, or in many, many small ways, or committed a sin so grievous that you feel He wants nothing to do with you anymore. Nothing could be further from the truth. He loves you so much that He died in your place for your sins. And then He rose again. He stands before you now, reaching out His nail-pierced hand, and asks, "Do you love Me?" The choice is yours. God has given each of us a free will. He does not force us to love Him, because love that is forced is not love at all. He will always love you, no matter what your choice. But how can you say no to such love and such grace? This Easter will you call Him your Saviour? Put your hand in His and walk with Him anew? (Romans 10:8-13)

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