



## Episode 15: Faith & Betrayal

"Simon Peter asked him, 'Lord, where are you going?' Jesus replied, 'Where I am going, you cannot follow now, but you will follow later.' Peter asked, 'Lord, why can't I follow you now? I will lay down my life for you.'" Then Jesus answered, 'Will you really lay down your life for me? Very truly I tell you, before the cock crows, you will disown me three times!' "

{ John 13:36-38 }

NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION

As we journey through holy week today and tomorrow we are starting to see the incidents just before the great unfolding of the Triduum. We start to hear the Lord saying how things are going to unfold and He hints that someone is going to betray Him. He hints that He has somewhere to go where the disciples can't follow Him.

I just love Simon Peter because he's messed things up quite a lot and yet he's the first to launch himself into the lake when he recognises the Lord coming towards him. He's a perfect mess up and yet so in love with the Lord at the same time. His imperfect following of the Lord and this betrayal at the time of the Lord's passion must have broken his heart. It was reflecting on this that led me to write the song that I am going to sing to you. Deep down inside we know we have a little bit of Peter in us somehow in small ways our lives betray Him from time to time.

This idea that Peter and the prodigal son are cut from the same cloth resonates with me. The prodigal in all of us, like Peter wants to be faithful but sometimes we just can't manage it. As we journey through these days of holy week there will be different resonances because of the way we're celebrating this year. The trial for us isn't whether we can be faithful to the Lord as He stands trial before Pilate or as He's condemned to death, but if we can stay faithful as we face these trials, if our lives can continue to say, "Yes we know the man".

I love you Lord,  
and I still don't understand  
why I betray you, Lord  
Is it part of someone's plan  
for me to be this child  
Who runs away even when  
I know it's best to stay

I need you, Lord  
And I'm reaching out my hand  
for you to save me, Lord  
Please take me back again.  
I'll try to stay this time,  
I pray this time, I won't stray this time

Cause when I'm close to you  
I'm where I should be  
Each day giving praise to you  
I know there is no better place  
to live than in your grace

But still I leave you, Lord  
And go walking my own way,  
I don't deserve you, Lord  
So for these three things I pray  
The time to know you Lord  
the strength to serve you, Lord  
The will to stay here, Lord

### **Song of Prodigal**

Words & Music by Joanne Boyce  
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How has the Lord welcomed you when  
you have been the prodigal son?