



## Easter Through the Eyes of Peter

By Tamara Roberts

**“I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers.” Luke 22:32 (ESV)**

Do you ever wonder about those who experienced the first Easter? How would Peter describe his experience?

“I thought the Messiah would overtake Rome and rule in Israel like everyone was taught since childhood. Looking back, I realize Jesus warned us He would be delivered to the hands of men, killed, and raised on the third day. We never understood it.

“I said, ‘Never. I’d go to prison before I’d let that happen.’

“‘Simon, Simon, Satan has demanded to test your faith, but I have prayed for you. When you have returned, encourage your brothers.’

“In the upper room, Jesus predicted we’d all scatter, I said I would die before I’d leave Him.

Me and my big mouth.

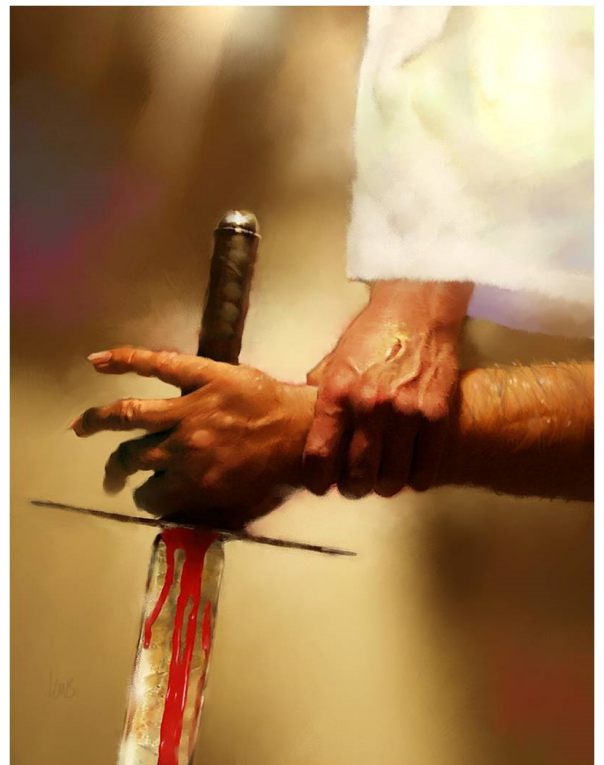
He said I’d deny Him three times before the rooster crowed.

“The Master explained things would change, that we’d need swords. We found two. I thought we were to protect our master.

“After the Passover meal, we went to Gethsemane to pray, but we fell asleep while Jesus prayed. The Lord awakened us as Judas arrived with the high priest, temple guards, and a Roman legion.

“As if the Master didn’t know, He asked, ‘Whom do you seek?’

“They said, ‘Jesus of Nazareth.’



“When He said, ‘I am He,’ they fell to the ground, overwhelmed by the power of His words. As they struggled to stand, He asked again, ‘Whom do you seek? I am Jesus of Nazareth. It’s me you seek, let the others go.’

“Then Judas betrayed our Master with a kiss. I wanted to chop his head off. Caiaphas, the chief priest nodded to his servant, Malchus, to tie Jesus’ hands. When he reached toward my Lord, I chopped Malchus’ ear off. I was so confused when Master told me to put away my sword. Only hours earlier He told us to get swords. Anyway, you should’ve seen their faces when Jesus healed Malchus’ ear. It didn’t change their minds.

“They bound Jesus and took Him to the high priest.

“John and I followed. While warming my hands at a fire, servants twice accused me of being with Jesus. I denied it. Malchus’ relative said, ‘Didn’t I see you in the garden.’ I denied Christ again. Then the rooster crowed.

“Agony. I had denied my Lord just as He said. I ran, pounding my chest and howling all the way back only to find several other sniffling deserters. Our world crashed around us. Less than twenty-four hours before, we thought we’d be sitting on thrones beside our Lord.

“One by one, more disciples dragged in. Andrew recounted the horrors of our Lord’s beating with the cat-of-nine-tails, soldier’s playing games, and pounding a crown of thorns into the Master’s head. James described Jesus stumbling up Skull Hill carrying the cross on His shredded shoulders. He said they pounded nails into our Lord’s hands and feet. I just sat in silence.

“At 3:00, the whole world darkened. The sun couldn’t watch either. The earth quaked.

“Thomas darted in reporting priests ran out of the temple screaming because the veil to the Holy of Holies had ripped from top to bottom. Would we be blamed for that?

“Then, Bartholomew’s long dead grandfather and many others left their graves and wandered the streets. I trembled like a scared goat.

“Just before Sabbath began, John and his mother escorted Mary in. Sobbing, her clothes soaked in her Son’s blood, she slid to the floor. A cacophony of anguish rose from all of us.

“They had followed those who put our Lord’s body in a borrowed tomb. Upset, they didn’t have time to anoint His body properly because of the Sabbath, they decided to finish after the Sabbath.

“Some women set the table and lit the Sabbath candles. The usual prayer fell hollow on my heart. ‘Blessed are You, God, King of the universe.’ As I heard the prayer, my heart screamed, ‘Jesus is dead. Our Messiah is dead. King of the universe, what is happening?’”

“They served left-over bread. Though no one was hungry, we each took a bite. I remembered what our Lord said. ‘This is My body, given for you.’ As I sipped the wine, I remembered Jesus’ words. ‘This is My blood, shed for you.’ Yet, I still didn’t understand.

“Instead of rest, the Sabbath was a day of grief, anguish, and confusion. We discussed the previous day’s happenings, but none understood. The words, ‘I have prayed for you’ repeated in my head. ‘Strengthen your brothers.’ But, how?

“Just before dawn, some women took myrrh and aloes to anoint Jesus’ body. Shortly after they left, they returned shouting, ‘He’s alive.’ An angel told them Jesus had risen and to tell me and the others to meet Him in Galilee. John and I raced to the tomb and found it empty. Was He really alive? He raised Lazarus. Could He...?

“Later that night, Jesus appeared to us through the locked door. He is alive! But, what would He think of my failure?

“I should’ve known. Our Lord had no anger for us, only love—only forgiveness.

“Shalom,’ He said. ‘As the Father has sent Me, so I send you.’ Then He breathed on us and said, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit.’ He opened our eyes to the truths He’d taught all along. Understanding came and courage with it. And, joy. Yes, joy so great it overtook my shame.

“Praise God. He is alive. Jesus has risen from the dead. He has paid the debt of our sins forever with His own blood. He brought forgiveness, not just for my sins, but yours, too. Praise God! Jesus is alive!”

**Prayer: Father, thank You for sending Jesus to sacrifice for our salvation despite our unworthiness. May our lives bring You to say, “It was worth it.”**

## Pray for our Church Family

**NRHBC Hospital Board & Prayer Sheet as of March 27, 2018:** Terry Higgs, Phlo tidmore, Joyce Stafford, Samantha Helms, Roy Lucas, Scott Donaldson, Family of Hubert Thedford, Family of Mark Bryant, Herb Tatum, family of Hannah Cowan, Linda (Betty Keding's daughter), Kathy Engeling (Ben White's daughter), Alicia Garcia (Lupe's mother), Jim Todd, Charles McManus, Jeff Hitchings, TX Panhandle Wildfires, Becky Langston, betty Rye (Danny Roberts' sister), Linda Wilson, Drew Alexander (Don Andrews family), and Linda Wade.

**Pray for these with continuing needs:** Alice Abbott, Linda Andruss, Darlene Blackburn, Judy Blevins, Claudia Bone, Charlie Brown, Maxine Calvert, Al/Jonathan Cardenas, Margo Carstarphen, Keith Chapman, Judy Cherne, Sherry Christensen, Mike Cobb, Karen Coker, Anne Coleman, Rick Collins, Janie Corbett, Betty Crumpler, Terry Denson, Bob Englemann, Jan Farr, Marinell Fidler, Clint Frisby, Judy Gangwere, Barbara Gant, Lupe Garcia, Jan Giles, Larry & Anita Griffey, Ray Hamelwright, Shelly Hardy, Tom & Hue Leita Harvey, John Heath, Virginia Hitchcock, John Holland, Marie Holt, Paula Jacob, Vaughn Kankey, Mary Frances Kelley, Lee Kibbe, Ed & Minerva Kimbell, Stan King, Helen Kingston, Ruth Leeth, Ezio Leite, Virgilia Martin, Doris Pait Mayfield, Vickie McCammon, Charlene McGee, Janell Miller, Bob Miner, Ralph & Imogene Mochizuki, Jenny Moore, Charlie Nelson, Bill Norman, Ruth Osborne, Eva Pannell, Jean Pulliam, Dean Radke, Vickey Rice, Dell Richardson, Amanda Roach, Nelda Roik, Jody Rushing, Sutton Savage, Linda Shepherd, Becky Shroyer, Brenda & Steve Slaughter, Bea Smith, Gerald Smith, Rosa Lee Smith, Charlsie Smith, David Spradley, Matha Sterling, Crystal Stewart, Heather Storie, Ladena Sullivan, Sutherland Springs, Karolyn Taylor, Leland Thomas, Mike Thomas, Jim Todd, John Tucker, Evelyn Vaughn, Bob Votaw, Homer Wallace, Clayton Wayne Eddie White, Kelly White, David Whitson, Lorene Williams, Helen Wilson, Calvin Winters, Mandi Womack, and Glenn Wright.

## Pray for Ministries of NRHBC & Cross Church

### Scott Maze, Senior Pastor requests prayer for:

☞ Friends, family & co-workers who are lost. Pray for people by name.

### Danny Roberts, Executive Pastor requests prayer for:

- ☞ Wisdom in determining future Cross Church staff needs.
- ☞ Speedy cooperation from City of Ft. Worth on Cross Church construction permits.
- ☞ Our staff as they plan, prepare, and promote great upcoming summer opportunities.

### Jeremy Winters, Cross Church Campus Pastor requests prayer for:

- ✝ Generous giving toward "Grow Together" building fund. We look forward to having our own building.
- ✝ Our search for a Cross Church Worship Pastor.
- ✝ Effective strategy/leaders for community engagement.

### Danny Koonce Worship Pastor & Jay Krivsky Worship Ministry Associate request prayer for:

- 🎧 Music & Ensemble preparations for Easter.
- 🎧 Jay is preparing for the Singles Spring Retreat.

### Dave Bryant, MS, & HS Ministries requests prayer for:

- 📖 Student's to finish the year strong.
- 📖 Manversation & Custom Made events this spring.

### D'Ann Laywell-Children's Ministry & Caren Crow-Preschool Ministry & Sandra Zwerg-KID Worship Ministry requests prayer for:

- 🚲 More KID Connection volunteers needed at 9:30 and 11:00.
- 🚲 Many who attend Eggstravaganza to come back to church the next day for Easter.
- 🚲 Mom to Mom spring kick-off.

### Daniel Stafford, GPS (Singles) Ministry requests prayer for:

- 😊 God's direction in the GPS (Singles) Ministry.
- 😊 GPS Spring Retreat at Riverbend.
- 😊 GPS Mission trip to Latvia.

### D'Ann Laywell, Women's Ministry requests prayer for:

- ☞ Women's Gala: that many ladies hear the gospel and god will be glorified.

### Stuart Pendell, Couples Ministry requests prayer for:

- 👰 Stronger, healthier, and happier marriages.
- 👰 Those marriages that are just barely hanging on - That God would use "RE-Engage" class to bring those couples closer to Him and to each other.

### T. J. Daugherty, Director of Global Missions requests prayer for:

- 🌐 God's direction in missions and helping those in need.

### Jody Hayes, Wellness & Senior Adult Ministry requests prayer for:

- 👰 Opportunities to share Christ with those who use the Wellness Center each week.
- 👰 Vitality among senior adults as they serve Christ.
- 👰 NRHBC widows to feel love & experience ministry.
- 👰 Senior Adult Day at Riverbend, April 10.

### Joshua Jones, Director of Communications requests prayer for:

- 👰 Courtney and I as we are fostering. Prayer support to raise these children to know and love Jesus.
- 👰 More volunteers are needed for Media Ministry.

### Bus Ministry requests prayer for:

- 🚌 Adult riders (18 yrs +) to assist each Sunday or every other Sunday.

**Numbers to call for Prayer Concerns:**

International Mission Board  
Prayer Line 1-800-395-PRAY (7729)  
North American Mission Board Prayer  
Line 1-800-554-PRAY (7729)  
International Mission News  
<http://www.imb.org>  
North American Mission News  
<http://www.namb.net>  
General Prayer Requests  
[diane@nrhbc.org](mailto:diane@nrhbc.org)

North Richland Hills  
Baptist Church  
6955 Blvd. 26  
North Richland Hills, TX 76180

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**Let us pray for the special activities of our church**

- Apr 1—Resurrection Sunday! He is Risen!
- Apr 2 & 16—Mom to Mom
- Apr 6—Kids Night out
- Apr 8—Discover NRHBC New Members Class, All GPS (Singles) meet together for BFGs, and Deacon Ordination at 6 p.m. in Worship Center.
- Apr 9—Angel Land Teacher Training.
- Apr 10—Riverbend Sr. Adult Day with Kingsmen.
- Apr 12—Harvest America Church Involvement Meeting, room 200, 12-1 p.m.
- Apr 13-15—GPS (Singles) Spring Retreat at Riverbend.
- Apr 15—Discovery Dinner for New Members or those interested in NRHBC.
- Apr 19-28—GPS Mission Trip to LATVIA.
- Apr 20-22—Youth Manversation & Custom Made
- Apr 22—Baptism Sunday and Leadership Equipping Meetings.
- Apr 27—Women’s Gala, 5:30 p.m. in the gym.
- Apr 28—Men’s Breakfast, 8 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.
- Apr 29—Muffins with Mom in AM, Deacons Meeting, 5 p.m., & PM Svc., 6 p.m.
- Apr 30 Mom to Mom’s 1st Meeting of the Spring Semester.
- Tues Morn Sr Bible Study & Tues Ministry Choir singing at various facilities
- Hispanic Ministry
- Kids Beach Clubs
- Media Ministry
- Music Ministry
- Senior Adult Ministry
- Wellness Center Ministry
- Youth Ministry
- Homebound Ministry
- Ladies Prayer Group
- Men’s Bible Study
- Pastor’s Prayer Team
- Upward Basketball
- Women’s Ministry
- Young Singles Thursday Night Bible Study
- KID Worship
- Library Ministry
- Men’s Ministry
- Preschool Ministry
- Wednesday WILD
- Young Singles 20s Ministry

- Academy Home School Choir
- Adopt-A-School Mentoring
- Angel Land Preschool
- Apartment Ministry
- BSF Groups
- Bus Ministry
- Child Care Ministry
- Children’s Choir
- Children’s Ministry
- Connect Classes
- Couples Ministry
- Cross Church Campus
- Divorce Care
- Divorce Care for Kids
- ESL Program
- Financial Peace University
- Fine Arts Academy
- Food Pantry
- G.A.L.s Drama Group
- Global Focus Ministry
- Good News Club
- GPS (Singles) Ministry
- GPS (Singles) Prayer&Praise
- GriefShare Ministry