

Year of The Rooster 酉鸡年

Admiral Zheng He of the Ming Dynasty in China was supposed to have introduced the Asiatic chickens to South America in his extensive maritime exploits of the 1420's.¹ Unlike the European rooster whose morning wakeup call is 'cock-a-doodle-doo', the Asiatic version is 'kik-kiri-kee'. Apart from rousing one from sleep, the call of the rooster can awaken one's conscience. Let me tell you an incident.²

中国明朝海军司令郑和应是在1420年代的大规模远洋探险时，把亚洲鸡种带到南美洲的。¹ 亚洲公鸡的啼声是“咯咯叭”，和欧洲公鸡早晨叫人起床的“咕咯啾得啾”不同。除了把人从睡梦中叫醒，公鸡的啼声也能唤醒一个人的良知。让我来告诉你一件事吧！²



A rooster once crowed. A man quietly went out into the night and wept bitterly. His name was Simon Peter. Why did an adult, a rough fisherman by profession, the recognised leader among a closely knit band of disciples of Jesus Christ, weep? There were at least three reasons. 曾经有只公鸡啼叫后，一个男人悄悄地步入黑夜里痛哭。他的名字叫西门彼得。为何一个大男人、以打鱼为业的粗人、被一群关系密切的耶稣基督门徒所公认的领袖会哭呢？那至少有三个原因。

Firstly, Simon had not believed the words of his Teacher, Jesus Christ. His Teacher had told him that before the rooster crowed, he would have denied Him three times. The holy book of the Jews, which is the same as the Old Testament of the Bible, foretold the coming of a Saviour who would save His people by offering up a perfect sacrifice on their behalf. Jesus Christ claimed that He was that promised Saviour, and that He would soon lay down His life to save many. If Simon believed such great truths, He should have believed the lesser truth that he would soon deny his Teacher?

首先，西门不相信他的老师耶稣基督的话。他的老师曾告诉他，在公鸡啼叫之前，他会三次不认祂。和圣经的旧约相同的犹太人圣书曾预言，有位救主会来为祂的子民献上一份完美的祭物拯救他们。耶稣基督声明祂就是那为所应许的救主，而且很快就会牺牲自己的生命来拯救众人。若西门相信这般伟大的真相，他就应该相信他将会不认他的老师的小小事实。

Secondly, Simon realised that he was not as strong and capable as he thought himself to be. When Jesus Christ was arrested he was one of the first to flee. And when challenged, he had denied his Master three times. Jesus Christ had known of Simon's weakness. He had known of the weakness of the human race. All of us are weak in our bodies, our character, and our nature. Even the most successful man is full of failures and weaknesses. We have actually inherited a sinful nature, with all the adverse effects of sin, from the first couple on earth – namely, from Adam and Eve.³

其次，西门发现他并不如自己所想象般的坚强和能干。当耶稣基督被捉时，他是第一个逃跑的。当他被挑战时，他竟三次不认他的主。耶稣基督知道西门的弱点，祂也了解人类的软弱。我们的身体、性格、本质，都是软弱的。即使最成功的人也是充满失败和弱点的。其实，我们从世上第一对人类，也就是亚当和夏娃，遗传了罪恶的本性，和所有罪的后果。³

Thirdly, Simon had disappointed a unique Person who should have been loved and trusted completely. Jesus Christ was actually the Son of God who had taken on perfect human nature. He had announced that soon He would die for the sin of His people. Simon had trusted Him, although he had not understood everything. Now, Simon had disappointed this unique Person by denying Him. Happily, Jesus Christ appeared to Simon after His death and resurrection. Simon's faith was restored. He was one of those for whom Christ died to save.⁴

第三，西门令一位应被爱戴和被完全信任的独特人物失望。其实，耶稣基督是上帝的儿子，祂披上了完整的人性降世。祂已经宣告祂很快就会为祂的子民的罪而死。虽然西门不完全明白每一件事，他曾经相信祂。如今，西门却令这位独特的人物失望，因为他不认祂。还好，耶稣基督在祂从死里复活后向西门显现，西门的信心就恢复了。他就是其中一位基督以死相救的人。⁴

The rooster crowed, and Simon Peter wept. We should be weeping, too. We have not wanted to hear the truth. We have thought ourselves so strong and capable, but many of us have faced severe setbacks and are unhappy. As the years roll by, we realise that life is so frail and fragile. We will soon pass away and face the judgement of God. But there is hope for us – in Jesus Christ alone. He is to be loved and trusted completely. He has said, “Come to Me, all you who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.”⁵

公鸡啼了，西门彼得哭了。我们也应该哭，我们不想听到真理。我们自以为坚强和能干，但我们许多人都面对严重的挫折，并且不快乐。随着岁月流逝，我们发现生命是那么地单薄和脆弱。我们很快就会成为过去，并会面对上帝的审判。但我们有盼望，就只在耶稣基督里。祂应被爱戴并被完全信任。祂曾说：“凡劳苦担重担的人，可以到我这里来，我就使你们得安息。我心里柔和谦卑，你们当负我的轭，学我的样式，这样你们心里就必得享安息。因为我的轭是容易的，我的担子是轻省的。”⁵

¹ “1421: The year China Discovered the World”, by Gavin Menzies, 2003 (Bantam Books)

¹ “1421: 中国发现世界”，加文·孟席斯著作，2003年（台北远流出版社）

² Matt. 26:69-75; ³ Rom. 5:14-15; ⁴ John 21:15-19; ⁵ Matt. 11:28-30

² 马太福音 26 章 69-75 节; ³ 罗马书 5 章 14-15 节; ⁴ 约翰福音 21 章 15-19 节;

⁵ 马太福音 11 章 28-30 节