

Thought for the Day

Thought for the day is based on one of the day's lectionary readings.

For the Bible online, go to: <http://bible.oremus.org/>

Choose your version (we use NRSV in church)

Copy and paste the reference into the search box and the passage will be displayed.

Tuesday 7 April

Luke 22.24-34

How do we know how we will each react in a crisis? When the moment of testing comes, will we step up to the plate? Or crack and run away? Whenever in the church calendar we remember a martyr dying for their faith, I always wonder whether I would have the courage to do that, and very much fear that I wouldn't. Peter thought he would never crack, and in the moment when he spoke I expect he really believed that. He really loved Jesus and he was not easily frightened. But he didn't realise quite how searching the trial would be. And when the time came, as we know, Jesus' words came true and Peter denied that he knew Jesus 3 times.

None of us can really foresee what we would do in such a moment. I am sure that acts of great heroism and commitment and self-sacrifice are happening in our hospitals at the moment. In our communities too, as neighbours rally round to look after others. Perhaps not the people you might expect to be heroes, but others.

Peter's forgiveness and restoration was already planned and, as it were, accomplished, according to Jesus' words, as he said to him '*when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers*'. I find that an encouragement. Jesus had no illusions about Peter's courage and loyalty, but the whole experience was to be a learning one. Peter would grow and be strengthened greatly through it, ready to be a better leader. I pray that we will each be given the strength and courage that we need in these days to meet whatever comes to us and to our loved ones; and even to learn and grow through our toughest challenges.

*Keep us, good Lord, under the shadow of your mercy in this time of uncertainty and distress.
Sustain and support the anxious and fearful, and lift up all who are brought low;
that we may rejoice in your comfort,
knowing that nothing can separate us from your love
in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.*