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Devotion for November 15th, 2021

Matthew 26:57-75

Today's reading comes from Matthew 26:57-75. What an interesting reading to be considering today when our minds might otherwise be thinking towards Advent, to our longing for the sweet infant Messiah we are promised.

But the reality is we can't consider these portrayals of Jesus separately. If we want the precious Christ-child, we must know that it will lead to the betrayed, abused, and sacrificed man. If we want the salvation given to us at the cross, we must acknowledge that the innocent baby continued to stay completely blameless as He grew and when He was a man bore not any of His own sins on the cross, but only ours.

We see at the end of this reading from Peter just how easy it is to deny our Savior. To brush aside the importance Christ has in our lives, or try to put our relationship with Him in a neat, tidy box of a simple explanation.

But the reality of walking through the Christian life is owning who we are and what exactly we believe, not hiding that or denying it to the world around us. We don't acknowledge our Lord just when it's nice end easy, not just when we can talk about the sweet baby in the manger. Also when we confront our sin, when we recognize the sin around us. When we cry out, "Lord, be merciful to me, a sinner."

It's not always easy, it's not always pleasant. But, it gets to end pleasant. Because the truth doesn't end in a denial, it doesn't end in brutality on the cross. It ends in an empty tomb, in a risen Savior who promises forgiveness and a home with Him for eternity. Praise be to God that all the power lies with Him, that not even our own sinning can keep us from the promises He's given.

*God's blessings,
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