

Series: Teaming Up With Christ (6/17/18)pm

Title: Peter

Text: (Matt 16:16)

The CIRCUMSTANCES of PETER

His Prominence:

1. He was not the first disciple, but his name always heads the list whether given in Matthew, Mark, Luke, or Acts.

Peter is the apostle that is most prominent.

More is written about Peter in Scripture than any other apostle.

Peter was the Most Prominent, where ever He was.

He is the One everybody followed:

(John 21:3) *Simon Peter saith unto them, I go a fishing. They say unto him, We also go with thee.*

2. He is always the spokesman for the twelve.

- It was Peter who responded to Christi's question: "Will ye also go away?" (John 6:67-69)
- It was Peter who asked, "How often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him?" (Matt 18:21)
- It was Peter who inquired what was to be the reward of those who left all & followed Jesus (Matt 19:27)
- It was Peter who asked about the fig tree when it withered away (Mark 11:21)
- It was Peter who answered when Jesus asked the crowd, "Who touched me?" (Luke 8:45)

- It was Peter who suggested prior to Pentecost electing another apostle to replace Judas.
- It was Peter who preached on the day of Pentecost & 3,000 people were converted (Acts 2:14 -41)

He is the Leader of FBC Jerusalem:

(Acts 1:15) *And in those days Peter stood up in the midst of the disciples, and said, (the number of names together were about an hundred and twenty,)*

His Place:

He is from, Bethsaida, NW shore of the Sea of Galilee (John 1:44) *Now Philip was of Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter.*

Apparently Peter moved to Capernaum after he met the Lord, especially when the Lord started his Public ministry.

His People:

Peter was a Jew, the Son of Jonas: (John 21:15) *So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me more than these?*

Peter was Married, Had a Mother In Law: (Mk 1:30) *But Simon's wife's mother lay sick of a fever, and anon they tell him of her.*

Therefore, He could not have been the first pope as some claim.

Peter's brother Andrew was instrumental in bringing Peter to Christ: (Matt 4:18) *And Jesus, walking by the sea of Galilee, saw two brethren, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea: for they were fishers.*

His Profession: He was a commercial Fisherman
Peter & Zebedee were partners in the business:
(Lk 5:10) *And so was also James, and John, the sons of Zebedee, which were partners with Simon.*

His Person:

His Name: (John 1:42) *Thou art Simon the son of Jona: thou shalt be called Cephas, which is by interpretation, A stone.*

Simon means "hearing."

Jesus changed his name to Peter which means "stone"

In John's Gospel, he is called, Simon Peter.

He was called Cephas, Peter & Cephas mean "stone."

Peter is a Greek name & Cephas is an Aramaic name.

In the ancient world, almost everyone spoke the

Greek language as well as his own language.

Most people had two names:

A Greek name which was their business name

A name of his own native language by which he was known in private to his friends.

His Nature: Peter was the Most Colorful

Often refers to by commentators as Impetuous Peter.

A Man of Action: (John 18:10) cut off Malchus' ear.

A Born Leader: (Luke 22:32) *Strengthen thy brethren*
(Jn 21:15-17) *Feed my Sheep*

A Man who spoke his mind: (Matt 16:16-17) 1st to hear the Voice of the Holy Spirit

Have you heard the voice of God?

Do you recognize it?

It will never lead you contrary to the bible.

(Matt 16:22-23) 1st to hear the Voice of Satan.

It sounds surprisingly like our own voice!

What was the difference between the 2 exchanges?

(2 Cor 10:3-5) *For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh:*

Our Fight is with Satan is not in the Flesh, but the mind: 4 *(For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)[Mind]*

5 *Casting down imaginations, [Mind]*

and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God [Mind],

and bringing into captivity every thought [Mind]

to the obedience of Christ;

This is the Battle Ground:

While in the Jesus presence, Satan whispered to Peter.

(Eph 6:16) *Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.*

Fiery Darts are thoughts.

1st the Holy Spirit spoke to Peter, Peter gave that thought authority, believed it, & acted on it: (spoke it)

2nd, Satan spoke to Peter; Peter gave that thought authority, believed it, & acted on it: (spoke it out loud)

We battle the same way!

1 Kings 22 & 2 Chron 18-Lying spirits spoke through the false prophets, convincing Ahab & Jehosaphat to go to war and lose.

We have a choice regarding what we will think about

(Phil 2:5) *Let this mind be in you,*

(Phil 4:8) *Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, **think on these things.***

(Rom 12:3) *For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, **not to think** of himself more highly than he **ought to think**; but **to think soberly**, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.*

Our Thoughts determine how we view ourselves.

(Prov 23:7) *For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he:*

So the Battle Rages.

What thoughts are you giving authority too?

(2 Cor 10:5) *Casting down imaginations, & every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, & bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;*

It's not your fault of a bird lands in your head, but you are the one who determines if it builds a nest.

As thoughts come into your mind, measure them against the Knowledge of God [Word].

Anything that is contrary to his Word, is to be Cast down - Not given Authority in your life.

The Devil is a Liar, He uses the Truth to Lie to You.

(John 8:44) *Ye are of your father the devil, & the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, & abode not in the truth, b/c there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.*

(2 Cor 10:5b) *& bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;*

We Must Direct Our Thoughts:

(Phil 4:8) *Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, **think on these things.***

The Challenge of Peter's Faith to stretch & strengthen Peter's Faith:

(Luke 22:31-32) *And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat: 32 But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren.*

Can you imagine that?

Would you want to hear that? NO!

The Fishing Challenge: (Luke 5:5-10)

Circumstances: (Vs 1-3)

Command: (Vs 4)

Commitment: (Vs 5) "*Nevertheless*"

God knows more about your job than You DO!

God's blessing makes the difference.

Compensation: (Vs 6-7) Obedience Precedes Blessing

Confession: (Vs 8-9)

Commission: (Vs 10)

The Feet Challenge: (Matt 14)

Circumstances: (Vs 22-24)

Wait a minute! Whose Idea was this?

(vs 25-26)

Jesus did not come to get them out of trouble, but to get into trouble with them.

God may not get you out of trouble either, but He has come to get into trouble with you.

Cause: (Vs 27) *Be not Afraid.*

Jesus is not freaked by what freaks us out!

Peter was a season Boater.

He was comfortable in the boat. Not his 1st storm!

(Vs 28) Peter choose to be close to Jesus in the Storm.

Rather than what he is used too.

***What is Our go to when life hits us hard?
Netflix? Ice Cream? Alcohol? Drugs? Etc.***

Command: (Vs 29) "*Come*"

Draw closer to Christ in the Storm.

Jesus didn't calm the storm but He calmed his disciple

Crisis: (Vs 30) "*He began to sink*"

"*Saw*" What is it that we choose to focus on in the Trials of life?

The uncertainty around us?

Or the God who called us out of the Boat?

Criticism: (Vs 31)

If he sent us into the storm, then He knew what we needed. (Rom 8:28-29)

“*Caught him*” - You are never out of His reach!
(James 4:6) *He giveth more grace!*

Say what you want, But at Least Peter was willing to get out of the Boat!

How long has it been since you Stepped Out of the Boat/ Comfort Zone?

(Vs 29) Peter choose to be close to Jesus in the Storm,
rather than what he is used too.

Have you ever stepped out of your Comfort Zone?

What is your Comfort Zone re: Witnessing? Service?

Have you ever Shared your faith at the Grocery Store?

Have you ever Shared your faith across the back fence

Have you ever Shared your faith at Work?

What is your Comfort Zone re: Prayer?

How long has it been since you asked God for something big?

Bigger than your Savings Sccount can fix?

Bigger than your Logic can fix?

Sometimes Following Christ, means getting out of your comfort zone.

Jesus said that Peter had “Little” faith.

Does ours even qualify for that Category of “Little”?

II. PETER BACKSLIDING: (Lk 22:54-62, Jn 21)

A. Backsliding is not the loss of Salvation.

It is the loss of fellowship (I John 1:7-9).

B. Backsliding is a gradual getting away from God.

If you were once closer to God than you are now, you are backslidden.

C. The events that led to Peter’s backsliding:

> He became self-confident: (Mk 14:27-31; Lk 22:31-34)

“Stand up, stand up for Jesus,
Stand in His strength alone.

The arm of flesh will fail you;

You dare not trust your own.”

> He followed Jesus afar off: (Luke 22:54)

This is often the trouble.

We are to be fanatics for Jesus,
but we are afraid to be.

D. He denied Christ:

> Luke 22:57 “...*I know Him not.*”

> There are many ways to deny Christ.

It is not just in words.

E. He cursed and swore: (Mark 14:71).

F. He left the ministry: (John 21:1-3) “*I go a fishing*”

G. He influenced six others to leave the ministry at the same time:

- > John 21:1-3
- > Influence on others can be strong.
 You fall; you take someone with you.
- > You stay straight; someone else may stay straight.

III. PETER'S NEW START

A. The Lord brought Peter back (John 21).

B. The Lord made him a business failure

- > John: 21:3 “They caught nothing.”
- > Peter was an experienced fisherman. If anybody could catch fish, he could, but he failed.

C. The Lord showed Peter he could succeed in the will of Christ. (John 21: 4-6)

D. The Lord provided for Peter's needs by preparing him a warm breakfast. (John 21:9-14)

E. The Lord cut into Peter's heart when He asked,:
(John 21:15-17), “*Don't you love me?*”

Peter got 2nd Chance, & Peter Took it!
Judas Iscariot got a 2nd Chance, He squandered it in self pity.

Conclusion:

2 chapters later He preached on the Day of Pentecost.
He had been forgiven & restored to fellowship.

 The result was 3,000 people got saved.

You may be down and out.
 Don't stay that way.

The Lord can restore you and use you.
 There is no better time than right now.

Learn from Peter!