

## **Appendix 2**

### **THE MAKING OF PETER**

These are some study notes to help you derive principles of how to nurture and disciple new leaders by looking at the extensive way Jesus works with Peter to develop the character that impacted the early growth of the Church post-Pentecost.

#### **The Call Of Peter**

Jn. 1:35-42 Possibly First appearance of the Aramaic name Cephas "Peter" (Petros in Greek). A new Name, a new identity. 2 Cor 5:17 has a real time aspect. We may not grasp it all at once, but when called to follow Christ we take on a new identity as God's child, member of Christ Church, prince and priest of God, His ambassador on earth.

Matt. 4:18-20 & Luke 5:1-11

Peter has some respect for Jesus, but has little aware of Jesus' power and authority. He also is well aware of his own strengths, and at least his knowledge of how to run his own life, how to fish. Jesus gently but firmly challenges Peter's understanding of Jesus and his own self-perception:-

- **Peter gets an insight into the awesomeness of Jesus**, "My Lord." Which develops further into the Messiah-confessions (Matt 16:15-20) and post-Pentecost into the goal of his preaching that Jesus is both Lord and Christ, Acts 2:36. 2 Peter 1:12-19
- **Peter gets a realisation of who he is in comparison to God**, "Two wonders I confess, the wonder of God's love and my own sinfulness". Note the tension between a keen awareness of our own sin and unworthiness, and the new name, new identity that we have in Christ. We need to have the humility to recognise our ability to sin, and yet live in the confidence that we are new people now in Christ. Rom. 7 as Paul acknowledges how powerful and evil his sinful nature is, and yet declares the victory he has to overcome his own sin through Jesus Christ.

Look at Jesus' development of Peter. Reflect on the need to learn more about Jesus Christ and to learn more about ourselves. Dual thrust of Christian discipleship:-

- Deepening in our understanding of who Jesus is
- Deepening in our understanding of ourselves, our short comings and the glory of what we are now in Christ Jesus

#### **For Further reflection**

- Who is Jesus Christ to me?
- How do I picture myself? Who am I? What am I?

#### **Greatest strengths are often also a weakness – Peter's Quickness to Speak and Act**

Matt. 16:15-20 (Mk. 8:27-30; Lk. 9:20) his confession of Jesus as Christ and God

Matt. 17 :7 (Mk. 9:2-6; Lk. 9:33) On the Mt. of Transfiguration

Mark 11:21 to note the fig tree

Luke 8:45 to point out the difficulty of finding the woman in the crowd

John 6:68 "Where else can we go?"

Matt. 14:22-32 willing to try and walk on the water to Jesus

John 18:10-11 Attacks the guards with a sword

#### **Peter's Willingness to Learn**

Matt. 15:15 (Lk. 12:41) to seek the explanation of parables

Matt. 17:25 The payment of the temple tax by Jesus

Matt. 18:21 He asks the limits for forgiveness

Matt. 19:27 (Mk. 10:28; Lk. 18:28) What were the rewards of those who give up all to follow Christ?

## **Peter's Weaknesses**

Matt. 16:22-23; Mk. 8:32-33; a failure to really understand the true work of Jesus and why he had to die.

Matt. 17:7 He fails to think before he speaks for to build tabernacles for Elijah and Moses would be against the very law of Moses and also equates Jesus with them, not, as he is, superior to them.

John 13:6-8 A degree of false humility emerges (equal in reality to pride) that he refuses to have his feet washed by Jesus. He is shamed by Christ's act of humility but doesn't volunteer himself to wash the disciples feet in his place.

Matt. 26:31-35 Mk. 14:29-31; Lk. 22:33-34; Jn. 13:17. Pride in his own ability to follow Jesus; claimed the power to exceed his fellows in remaining loyal the Jesus.

## **Peter's Fall - Denies The Lord**

Matt. 26:58-74; Mk. 14:54, 66-72; Lk. 22:54-62; Jn. 18:15-18, 25-27.

## **Jesus Action to Restore Peter**

Lk. 22:31 Jesus was praying for Peter's restoration even before Peter fell!

Mk. 16:7 He ensures that the resurrection message is specifically taken to Peter; Lk. 24:12; Jn. 20:2-8 describes Peter's visit to the tomb.

1 Cor. 15:5 Seems to teach that Jesus specifically appeared to Peter before to the other disciples; this personal appearance must have been to confirm his restoration to the Lord. We don't know when this actually took place.

Jh. 21:1-21 On the shore of Galilee Jesus speaks publicly to Peter to three times declare his love for Jesus. Note that Peter replies in humility with the lesser word for love as a mark of his recognition of the weakness of his human spirit towards Christ.

## **Lessons From Peter's Moment Of Failure**

Main passage taken from Matt. 26:31-74.

1. Peter thought he could stand on his own in any circumstance. In all four accounts his specific promise NOT to deny Christ is recorded. vs. 31-35
2. He failed to pray when the moment of temptation was drawing near, vs. 37-40. Note, he didn't know the time was near so he slept, but the critical thing is to always be in an attitude of prayer (1 Thess. 5:17).
3. He attempted to follow Jesus, but from a safe distance, 26:58; near but not near enough.
4. He failed to identify with Christ when the cost was too high, vs. 58-74
5. He remained in the point of temptation and repeated the same sin three times, see especially Jn. 18:15-27. The three times did not follow on from each other immediately, there would have been time to leave.
6. Two things brought him to his senses (i) the cock crowing and (ii) the look of the Lord Lk. 22:61. c.f. with the Prodigal Son (i) the pigs food and (ii) the memory of his Father's house.
7. On recognition of what he had really done he was broken by his own sinfulness. There were real tears and deep sorrow. No tears no deep repentance; no broken heart over sin will lead to a high chance of repetition. 2 Cor. 7:8-10; Ps. 51:17; Isa. 57:14-21.

## **LESSONS FROM JESUS' ACTIONS TO RESTORE PETER**

1. Jesus was praying for Peter even before he fell, Lk. 22:31. Hence the lesson that prayer for those who have fallen is paramount for the full restoration of that person
2. In His prayer Jesus looked for the FULL restoration of Peter, not just in his relationship with Christ but in terms of his usefulness for Christ, "... when you turned back, strengthen your brothers." We are too pessimistic and too judgmentalistic in our attitude to the failure of others. God wants them restored and fully useful once again in His service. There will be consequences but they are things to be worked through not reasons for setting permanent limitations.
3. Jesus took steps to personally meet up with Peter, privately, to help him to full restoration, 1 Cor. 15:5 Seems to teach that Jesus specifically appeared to Peter before to the other disciples we don't know when this actually took place
4. Jesus also publicly affirmed His faith in Peter's restoration by sending the message of His resurrection specifically to Peter, Mk. 16:7. Lk. 24:12; Jn. 20:2-8 describes Peter's visit to the tomb.
5. On the shore of Galilee Jesus speaks publicly to Peter to three times declare his love for Jesus. Jh. 21:1-21. Note that Peter replies in humility with the lesser word for love as a mark of his recognition of the weakness of his human spirit towards Christ.

## **LESSONS TO BE LEARNED FROM THE CHANGES THAT TOOK PLACE IN PETER'S LIFE**

A comparison between pre- and post-Pentecost shows a marked change in Peter, essentially in his willingness and ability to publicly identify himself with Christ and His message, despite the threat of imprisonment and death.

A two fold experience is the explanation for this; He had met up with the resurrected Lord, Jesus Christ and been filled with the Spirit of Christ, the Holy Spirit of God.

1. He had met the risen Christ, but as Christ was no longer physically with them, he returned to his old occupation, catching fish, Jn. 21:2-3.
2. He had to be faced up with his inability to be really devoted to Christ, Jn. 21:15-17
3. Christ had to re-commission him, Jn. 21:15-19. With details but essentially "Follow Me"!
4. He had to be filled with the Holy Spirit. Note he had received the Spirit, Jn. 20:22. In their case because of the historical factors involved in Christ's ascension and the subsequent sending of the Spirit (Jn. 7:40) there was a gap of days before he was first filled on the day of Pentecost (Lk. 24:49; Acts 1:5, 8; 2:1-4)