

Chapter Two: the Apostle with the Foot-shaped Mouth

And the Lord said, "Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat. But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren."

- Luke 22:31-32

- I. Peter's place among the Twelve: he was the _____ of the _____.
 - a. The three groups seem to be listed in descending order based on their _____ with Christ.
 - b. The men in group one had known him the _____.
 - c. Peter, at the top of all four lists, was the _____ and overall _____ of the Twelve.
- II. Peter's name turns out to be quite significant.
 - a. His birth name, _____, was a very common name, kind of like Joe. His surname was Bar-Jonah, literally, "_____ of _____." So his father had a common name, too. To give you a J.M.D.E. for his birth name, it would be something like, Joe Schmo.
 - b. Jesus gave him a _____ (John 1:42). This didn't replace his other name (as was the case with _____) but was used sometimes instead of and sometimes _____ his birth name.
 - c. It appears that Jesus was very _____ with his use of Peter's names. By nature, Simon was brash and undependable. His nickname, "the Rock" was a constant reminder of how he *ought to* act. It is interesting to note how the gospel writer's use "Simon" to refer either to his _____ life or to his _____ nature. – see John 21:15-17). (p. 37)
- III. Peter had the three things in his life that made him a true leader: the raw _____, the right life _____, the right _____ qualities.
- IV. The Raw Material
 - a. He was _____. Knowledge is _____. Whoever has the information has the lead. If you want to find a leader, look for someone who is asking the right _____ and genuinely looking for

_____. In the Gospel accounts, Peter asks more questions than all the other apostles combined.

- b. He showed _____. A true leader must be the kind of person who makes things _____. Peter was usually the first one to _____ Jesus questions. – see Matthew 16:13. (p.41)
- c. He demonstrated _____. A true leader goes through life with a cloud of dust around him. Peter was the only sinful man to ever _____ on _____.

V. The Right Life Experiences

- a. He learned that crushing _____ often follows closely on the heels of our greatest _____. Compare Matthew 16:16 with 16:23.
- b. He learned that he was _____ and could not trust his own resolve. (p. 46)

VI. The Right Character Qualities

- a. The first character quality Peter learned from Jesus was _____. Leaders must be examples of submission themselves, if they would teach other people to submit. Compare Matthew 17:24 with I Peter 2:13.
- b. Another important character quality that Jesus modeled for Peter was _____. Compare John 13:1 with I Peter 4:8.
- c. Finally, he had to learn _____. Before Pentecost, Peter had only shown flashes of a fickle kind of courage. Shortly after he attempted to take on a brigade of Roman soldiers, he denied his Lord when challenged by a _____. But after Pentecost, we see a different Peter (Acts 4:19,20).

How did Peter's life end? We know that Jesus told Peter he would die as a martyr. But Scripture doesn't record the death of Peter. All the records of early church history indicate that Peter was crucified. Eusebius cites the testimony of Clement, who says that before Peter was crucified, he was forced to watch the crucifixion of his own wife. When it was Peter's turn to die, he pleaded to be crucified upside down because he wasn't worth to die as his Lord had died. And thus he was nailed to his cross head-downward.

Peter's life could be summed up in the final words of his second epistle: "Grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ." That is exactly what Simon Peter did, and that is why he became Rock – the great leader of the early church.