

“Simon, son of John, do you love me?” Peter was grieved because he said to him the third time, “Do you love me?” and he said to him, “Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you. Jesus said to him, “Feed my sheep.” - John 21:17

I. PETER—THE DEVELOPING CHRISTIAN

- Prior to his denial of Christ, Peter proved to be humble, wise and courageous (Matt. 16:13-19; Mark 1:16-20; Luke 5:7-11, 22:33; John 1:42, 18:10).
- Peter appears to have been a born leader. His encounter with Christ changed his heart immediately, but his courage and leadership grew gradually (Luke 5:8).
- Peter would lead the apostolic band both prior to and after Jesus’ death and resurrection (Matt. 14:28-29, 15:15, 17:1, 18:21, 19:27; Mark 5:37, 11:21; Luke 8:45, 12:41; John 6:68, 13:6-9; Acts 1:15-26, 2:37-41, 3:11-26, 15:6-11).

II. PETER—THE REDEEMED COWARD

- Peter went from “hero to zero” in a matter of hours. He is both you and me in a nutshell (cf. John 13:36-38, 18:15-18, 25-27).
- Whereas Judas felt sorry for himself and committed suicide, Peter felt sorry for his sin and was restored. One felt worldly sorrow, the other godly sorrow (Matt. 26:75, 27:3-10; 2 Cor. 7:10).

III. OUR ENCOUNTER WITH JESUS

- An encounter with Jesus changed Peter forever (1 Peter 1:3-9).
- Our encounter with Jesus produces in us:
 1. Faith (Mark 9:24),
 2. Repentance (Mark 14:72; Luke 19:8),
 3. New life (2 Cor. 5:17),
 4. Courage (Acts 21:13; Rev. 2:10),
 5. Endurance (Rom. 5:3; Phil. 1:6),
 6. Character producing hope (Rom. 5:4),
 7. Fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22).

KNOW: Peter, like all of us, was flawed. He was also transformed by an encounter (and life) with Jesus. What he was, we are. What he became, we can be.

DO: Receive the grace and mercy of Jesus. Live like you've received them.

Suggested Reading:

On the Incarnation by St. Athanasius of Alexandria
(Available in the LifePoint Adult Library)

Pleased to Dwell: A Biblical Introduction to the Incarnation by Peter Mead
(Available in the LifePoint Adult Library)

For Children:

Who Is Jesus? by Kate Hox (Available in the LifePoint Children's Library)

**Questions/Discovery Points for
Life Groups/Families**

Please Read Mark 14:66-72 and John 21:15-19

1. What kind of man do you think Peter was?
2. Why did he lose his courage so quickly, do you think?
3. Both Peter and Judas appeared to be sorry for their actions. What was different about them?
4. What about Jesus' interaction with Peter in John 21:15-19 stands out to you?
5. What changes in Peter do you see after Jesus' resurrection (in the book of Acts and 1-2 Peter)?
6. What are your personal application points drawn from these texts and/or the message?