

## PETER, AN IMAGE OF HUMAN FRAILITY

### INTRODUCTION:

- A. James calls the Bible a mirror Jas 1:23-25 This is an appropriate figure because we actually see ourselves
- B. Nowhere is this better done than in the study of Bible Characters
- C. One of the best is Peter: He displays so many of the frailties that beset us - and shows how to overcome them

### DISCUSSION:

#### I. BEGINNING TO DOUBT Matt 14:22-33

- A. Jesus sent the disciples ahead and remained to send away the multitude and to pray
- B. Halfway across the sea of Galilee against contrary wind Jesus came walking on the water
  - 1. After reassurances that this was indeed Jesus, Peter desired to come to Jesus and Jesus said "come"
  - 2. Peter did well as long as he kept his eyes on Jesus
  - 3. When he began to doubt he began to sink
  - 4. He then asks Jesus for help
- C. We sometimes plunge into danger - lack steadfastness to see it through 1Cor 15:58
  - 1. Jesus never ask us to do what we cannot do and what he will not help us to do Matt 28:18-20
  - 2. Our failures are:
    - a. Doing what He has not authorized
    - b. Doubting God's help in what he has authorized

#### II. WISE BEYOND HIMSELF (Presumptuous) Matt 16:22

- A. Jesus praised Peter's confession Matt 16:16
- B. Jesus began teaching of his forthcoming death
  - 1. Peter tried to rebuke Jesus Matt 16:21-23
  - 2. Jesus said get thee behind me Satan
- C. Peter presumed to know more of Jesus' business than did Jesus himself
- D. We fall into the same error today
  - 1. We attempt to make laws God has not made or break those he has made
  - 2. We bind our opinions on others

#### III. TOO SURE OF HIMSELF (Overconfidence) Matt 26:31-35

- A. Jesus said they would all be offended this night – Peter said: "I will never deny thee"
- B. Jesus predicted three denials - Peter affirmed he would not - but he did
  - 1. Let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall 1Cor 10:12
  - 2. Need to examine ourselves 2Cor 13:5; Heb 2:1

#### IV. THE WRONG WEAPONS Jhn 18:10,11

- A. Judas brought the mob - Peter drew his sword and cut off the ear of Malcus (servant of High Priest) and Jesus rebuked Peter
- B. Wrong view of the kingdom Jhn 18:36; Acts 1:6
- C. The wrong view of its protection and its spread Sword of Spirit (Word of God) Eph 6:17
- D. Wrong attitude toward enemy Matt 5:44; Rom 12:17-21

#### V. THE ENEMY'S FIRE Jhn 18:18

- A. Peter followed afar off Lk 22:54
- B. Peter gained entrance by word from another disciple (possibly John) Jhn 18:15
- C. Night cold so Peter drew near the fire with the enemy
  - 1. When identified with Christ he denied three times just as Jesus said Matt 26:69-75
  - 2. Christ looked at him, then Peter went out and wept bitterly
- D. Evil companions corrupt good morals 1Cor 15:33
- E. We must not allow distance between us and the Lord

#### VI. PRESSURE OF COMPANIONS AGAIN Gal 2:11-21

- A. After the resurrection Peter served long and faithful
  - 1. Preached on Pentecost to the murderers of Jesus
  - 2. He went to jail - withstood the Sanhedrin court
  - 3. Visited the Samaritans and carried the Gospel to the Gentiles for the first time
- B. Yet notice Peter now at Antioch Gal 2:11
  - 1. When the Jews, arrived Peter dissembled (became hypocritical in his actions)
  - 2. He carried others away with him Vs 13
  - 3. Paul rebuked Peter for his actions
  - 4. Peter held no ill will for the rebuke - later called Paul "Our beloved brother" 2Pet 3:15

### CONCLUSION:

- A. In spite of his frailty and proneness to err, with God's help Peter overcame these sins and weaknesses and was faithful in his service for the Lord
- B. Peter recognized his sins when they were pointed out to him and turned back to God in obedience and humility
- C. It has not been our purpose to exploit the faults of Peter just for the sake of doing that, but that we might take courage from him in correcting our own mistakes
- D. If God could use Peter, then he can use you, if you will have the attitude that Peter had when you are made aware of your sins.