

# PETER WAS A MAN

Mt. 26:31-35, 69-75  
(Also Mk. 14 and Lk. 22)

## INTRODUCTION

Sometimes we forget that the Apostles were men just like us. They were not sinless like Christ, but instead devout disciples who could and did make mistakes. Peter was such a man.

In this lesson we will examine Peter's character, generally and specifically focusing on four contradictions. In addition we will look at the steps that led to his cowardly denial of Jesus and finally conclude with some remarks concerning his later life and how we can learn from his mistakes.

## GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF PETER

- 1) He was impulsive - that is, prone to acting without thinking. Examples: Walking on the water, Mt. 14:28; At the Transfiguration, Mt. 17:4; Jesus appearance at the Sea of Tiberius, Jn. 21:7; and when he cut off the ear of the High Priest's servant, Jn. 18:10.
- 2) He loved the Lord - This can be seen by his reaction to his three denials, Mt. 26:75 and also see Jn. 21:15-17.

## CONTRADICTIONS IN PETER'S CHARACTER

<b>PRESUMPTUOUS</b> Peter rebukes the Lord, Mt. 16:21,22. He will not let Jesus wash his feet, Jn. 13:9. He cut off Malchus' ear, Jn. 18:10	<b>BUT</b>	<b>COWARDLY</b> Loses faith while walking on the water, Mt. 14:30. His three denials, see our reading.
<b>SELF-SACRIFICING</b> Left his nets, Mk. 1:18	<b>BUT</b>	<b>SELF-SEEKING</b> Wanted a reward, Mt. 19:23-27
<b>SPIRITUAL INSIGHT</b> Some turn away at hard sayings, Jn. 6:60-69	<b>BUT</b>	<b>SPIRITUALLY IGNORANT</b> Does not understand the parable of Mt. 15:11-16
<b>TWO GREAT CONFESSIONS</b> Mt. 16:16 and Jn. 6:69	<b>BUT</b>	<b>THREE TERRIBLE DENIALS</b> Our reading, also Lk. 22:54-62; Mk. 14:66-72; Jn. 18:15-27.

## SEVEN STEPS LEADING TO PETER'S COWARDICE

- 1) CONCEIT - Mt. 26:31-35
- 2) EASE - Mt. 26:40,41
- 3) RASHNESS - Jn. 18:10,11
- 4) FOLLOWING AFAR - Mt. 26:58
- 5) EVIL ASSOCIATES - Jn. 18:18
- 6) DENIAL - Jn. 18:21

7) BLASPHEMY - Mk. 14: 70,71

### **LATER IN PETER'S LIFE**

- 1) READ Jn. 21:15-17
- 2) He possessed the power of the Holy Spirit, Acts 1:8; 2:1-3.
- 3) Showed courage, Acts 4:19,20; 5:28,29; 5:40-42.
- 4) Did he attain sinless perfection? Gal. 2:11; Acts 10:14.

### **CONCLUSION**

We can learn from Peter's mistakes. We must avoid his seven steps to cowardice and learn to control our impulses. Also, we must work to be selfless instead of selfish.

We cannot possess the measure of the Holy Spirit that Peter had, so we must study the scriptures to increase our knowledge of what God would have us to do, and work to sharpen our abilities to comprehend spiritual truths.

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