

# What We Can Learn from Peter

By Kelly T. Dixon

Scripture: Matthew 16: 13-16

Ask any Christian to name the twelve apostles and most likely they will begin the list with Peter at the top. Simon Peter is the best-known of the twelve apostles and rightfully so as he was always displaying his love for his Savior, Jesus Christ. When I think of Peter I think of a brave fisherman who daily fought the elements of God's nature to provide for his family. This trait is one that Peter brought with him as he followed Christ as a "trainee" to become a fisher of men. Therefore, there is a lot that we as Christians can learn from Peter.

Peter was a professor of Christ, the Son of His Living God, as his Lord and Savior. In Matthew 16:16 it states that when Jesus asked "*But who do you say that I am*" the Bible states that "*Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.*" Peter knew that he was facing and speaking directly to his Savior, his Creator's one and only Son.

Peter emotionally displayed his love for Christ. The gospels throw much light upon Peter's emotional character - the attempt to walk upon the sea to meet Jesus; his rash but affectionate rebuke of the Lord for speaking of suffering and death as a part of his divine mission; his horror at the thought that his Master desired to wash his feet; his severing the ear of Malchus at the arrest of Jesus; his denial of the Lord following so closely on his boast of unwavering loyalty; and his bitter sorrow at his failure in this regard.

Peter immediately took on the role of leader for the apostles and later became a great teacher of Christ's love. Acting as spokesman for the apostles in their conversations with Jesus and generally showing leadership qualities as a strong part of his nature.

Peter was a great evangelist who lead others to Christ. It was Peter who delivered the sermon at Pentecost, which resulted in three thousand baptisms. In the company of John, he healed the lame man at the Beautiful gate of the temple, was arrested for a sermon which he gave on that occasion, defended himself before the Sanhedrin, and obtained his release. Subsequently, he was arrested again and beaten, with the rest of the apostles, but did not cease preaching the gospel at every opportunity.

Lastly, Peter's display of bitter weeping after he denied his Savior three times showed how he was greatly regretful for the sin he had committed. Peter just knew he would never deny his Lord and Savior, but when he was put to the test he failed it three times. When he heard the cock crow as Jesus said it would he looked into the Lord's eyes and was greatly ashamed.

What can we learn from the character of Peter? I believe we can learn to be:

- P**rofessors of Christ as the Son of our living God
- E**motional "displayers" of our love for Christ
- T**eachers and leaders of Christ's love
- E**vanglizers who lead others to Christ
- R**egretful sinners who want to please our Savior and bitterly weep when we fail. †