

J.J.

PETER? WHY?

John 21

INTRODUCTION :

We all know that our Lord said to Peter “I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven”. One time, a woman was in line to enter the pearly gates. Peter was the one greeting them. He was hearing Peter telling the people in line, “Spell “Grace” And people will spell, “G-R-A-C-E.” And Peter will allow them to enter the gates. So the woman already knows what to answer, so when it was her turn, Peter asked her, “Spell Grace” She said “G-R-A-C-E”. And Peter said, “You can now enter heaven.” But Peter said that he has to talk to Michael the Archangel, so she asked the woman to man the pearly gates and she just asked them, “Spell Grace” Everytime, people spell it correctly, she lets them in. Until she saw her husband in the line who cheated on her. When it was his turn she asked him, “Spell Czechoslovakia”

Peter was a showcase of God’s grace.

If I were the Lord Jesus, and would choose people that would turn the world upside down, I wouldn’t choose his band of disciples...specially Peter....during his life with Jesus...there was nothing like a rock. **PRAY**

PETER’S CREDENTIAL

Why Peter?

- He doesn’t have any high education or training.

Acts 4:13 When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus.

Jerry’s choice : I would have chosen someone who had a degree in a good theological seminary and even a doctorate’s degree.

- He is an ordinary man with no influence and no connections

He was a fisherman.

In fact, when they thought that Jesus is gone. He just went back to what he was doing... fishing.

Matthew 4:18 While walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon (who is called Peter) and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen

Jerry’s choice : I would have chosen a person with power... like a senator or whatever.

- He was a probinsyano with an accent.

In modern times, it means he’s a probinsyano (Galilee)...he’s not sophisticated. He’s rough on the edges.

He’s not from the big city.

Matthew 26 : 73 After a little while, those standing there went up to Peter and said, “Surely you are one of them; your accent gives you away.”

Jerry's choice : I would have chosen a person who is respectable in his stance, from the big city, wearing power suits and with the proper accent.

Note : Notice the immigrant Filipinos, when talking with other people or Filipinos they do not know... they hide their accent and try to do the Canadian accent...

- **He is tactless and does not know when to shut his mouth.**

Remember in Matthew 16, when he made the statement by God's grace when Jesus asked, "Who do you say I am?"

Matthew 16 : 15 He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" 16 Simon Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." 17 And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven.

Then he was called Peter (petros) a rock or little stone and on this rock (petra) which means a large rock

8 And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock¹ I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

By the way, some people interpret this it is on Peter that the church will be built. Of course not, it was on the statement of Peter that Jesus is *the Christ, the Son of the living God.* On that very truth, Christ is the Son of God that the true church is built not on any man but on Christ who is the Son of God!

Remember this : FCC is not built on any man... it's built on Jesus Christ and if you always acknowledge that and remember that, then this church is on a solid foundation.

Back to the lesson, Peter must have felt good...wow but look at the succeeding moment.

Look at what he did when he rebuked Jesus... imagine Peter rebuking Jesus.

Mark 16: 21 From that time Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. 22 And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "Far be it from you, Lord! This shall never happen to you." 23 But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan!"

You have to remember that he just said that Jesus is the Son of the Living God.

Remember also that they considered him a Rabbi, you have to put that in their context.

Etymology : Rabbi (Hebrew) Rav... literally means... great one, master.

Illustration : Imagine yourself in the presence of a great chef like Gordon Ramsay, who has cooked Beef Wellington all his life, a thousand times and perfected it. And then me, a pastor in Brampton who doesn't even know how to bake would say to him... Gordon, YOU ARE WRONG!

Talagang masasabihan nga ako ng "Get behind me Satan... you belong in Hell's kitchen"

In the story of the Transfiguration in Mark 9. He saw that Elijah and Moses were talking to Jesus and look at what Peter said...

Mark 9 : 5 And Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good that we are here. Let us make three tents, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah." 6 For he did not know what to say, for they were terrified.

Story : There was this secretary in a company I was working for before. One time she answered the phone and the person on the other line was looking for her boss. She said, "Are you willing to wait since my boss is on the other line." The other person on the phone said, "No problem." But I guess, she did not know what to say next, she asked, "Would you like some coffee sir?"

Sometimes, we just say things without thinking of what we are saying. This is the reason why sometimes we hurt other people because we sometimes don't know how to control our mouth. Or we are tactless.

How can this person be a leader? How can this person be used to preach the first sermon when the church was born during the Pentecost?

Jerry's choice : I would have chosen a deep thinker... one who analyzes the situation well before he acts or speaks.

- **Hot-headed (Trigger happy)**

John 18:10 Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's servant, cutting off his right ear. (The servant's name was Malchus.) 11 Jesus commanded Peter, "Put your sword away! Shall I not drink the cup the Father has given me?"

Significance : Judas was bringing a detachment of soldiers in verse 3 (speira), it means that's around 500 soldiers and again, Peter, not thinking, very emotional person just brings out his lowly sword and starts hacking – bara-bara (not even trained)

Jerry's choice : I wouldn't choose an emotional person who acts before he thinks.

- **He was inconsistent and unreliable.**

What do I mean by that? First, he will be courageous, then afterwards he would shrink.

- a.) **Walking on water...** remember he was the one who asked Jesus (while the others were scared) so he was very courageous and yet while he was already walking on water...and yet when he was on water instead of focusing on Jesus, he focused on the waves....that's the reason why he sank...

Matthew 14: 27 But Jesus immediately said to them: "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid."

28 "Lord, if it's you," Peter replied, "tell me to come to you on the water."

29 "Come," he said.

Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. 30 But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!

It's just like us, when at the start of the problem we say, I will trust you Lord... but then another wave comes in, instead of focusing on the Lord, we looked at the problem.

b.) He preached the Gospel to the Gentiles and yet in the presence of the Jews, he was saying that they should not eat ham. He doesn't practice what he preach... he's a people pleaser.

Galatians 2: 11 But when Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned. 12 For before certain men came from James, he was eating with the Gentiles; but when they came he drew back and separated himself, fearing the circumcision party

c.) And of course, the famous three times denial..

Jesus said that everyone will abandon him. What did Peter say?

Matthew 26 : 33 Peter answered him, "Though they all fall away because of you, I will never fall away." 34 Jesus said to him, "Truly, I tell you, this very night, before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times." 35 Peter said to him, "Even if I must die with you, I will not deny you!"

And we all know what happened afterwards...

69 Now Peter was sitting out in the courtyard, and a servant girl came to him. "You also were with Jesus of Galilee," she said.

70 But he denied it before them all. "I don't know what you're talking about," he said.

71 Then he went out to the gateway, where another servant girl saw him and said to the people there, "This fellow was with Jesus of Nazareth."

72 He denied it again, with an oath: "I don't know the man!"

73 After a little while, those standing there went up to Peter and said, "Surely you are one of them; your accent gives you away."

74 Then he began to call down curses, and he swore to them, "I don't know the man!"

Illustration : We all know this type of people... Ah..pastor, when I get a good job, I will give my tithes...Ah pastor from now on...I will be attending Sunday church service...

Jerry's choice : I would have chosen a person with a track record of achieving goals and etc.

PERSONAL : BUT AS I STUDIED PETER, THE MORE AND MORE I IDENTIFY MYSELF WITH HIM... AND THE MORE I SAY, "LORD, WHY PETER?"... I ALSO SAY, "LORD, WHY ME?" THERE ARE OTHERS WHO ARE MORE WORTHY.

PETER : THE LORD'S CHOICE

BUT OUR LORD CHOSE PETER....AND HERE'S A LESSON FOR US WHEN IT COMES TO LOOKING AT PEOPLE

1. God doesn't only look at people at their present condition but their potential in Christ.

People only see a fisherman but our Lord sees a fisher of men.

Matthew 4:19 And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men."

Matthew 16 : 17 And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven.

18 And I tell you, you are Peter

During that time, Peter was far from being a stable (ROCK) person.

1 Samuel 16 : 7 But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the Lord sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart."

Remember this : GOD IS NOT LOOKING FOR GOOD PEOPLE HE CAN USE... (there's no one good anyway...HE'S LOOKING FOR SINNERS WHO WILL SURRENDER THEIR LIVES TO HIM WHOM HE CAN SHOW HIS GLORY!)

Illustration : Evangelist riding an airplane and introduces himself as a businessman.

2. God chooses the weak to show people that He is strong.

1 Corinthians 1: 26 Brothers and sisters, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. 27 But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong.

Illustration : When I ask someone before to lead a ministry in the church, that person came up to me and said, "Pastor, I don't think I can do it." I replied to the person, "Praise the Lord! That's the best way to start." And I had to explain to him why, it's because if you knew immediately what to do and that you think you can do it, the danger is you might rely on your own strength and wisdom rather than going on your knees first and asking for God's strength and wisdom.

Peter started right. His heart was right because he saw his own heart when He realized who Jesus is.. For people being used by God this is the best place to start on our knees.

Luke 5:8 When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus' knees and said, "Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!"

QUOTE : GOD DOESN'T LOOK AT WHAT YOU CAN DO FOR HIM BUT WHAT HE CAN DO THROUGH YOU.

Note : I've seen this time and time again.

THE CONVERSATION :

PETER DOESN'T HAVE THE CREDENTIALS TO CHANGE THE WORLD. BUT WITH THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, HE WAS ONE OF THOSE USED BY GOD TO SPREAD THE GOSPEL.

If there's one thing as Christians that we should emulate from Peter...

JESUS LOVES PETER. PETER LOVES THE LORD!

John 21 : 15 When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." He said to him, "Feed my lambs." 16 He said to him a second time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." He said to him, "Tend my sheep." 17 He said to him the third time, "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. 18 Truly, truly, I say to you, when you were young, you used to dress yourself and walk wherever you wanted, but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will dress you and carry you where you do not want to go." 19 (This he said to show by what kind of death he was to glorify God.) And after saying this he said to him, "Follow me."

This is what Christianity is all about. It's not about religion. It's not about a set of rules. It's not about good behaviour. It's not about being a good person. It's not about being perfect.

CHRISTIANITY IS ALL ABOUT HAVING A LOVE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE LORD!

Let's glean four things from these conversation :

- 1. I love how the Lord reinstated Peter 3 times by asking him do you love me three times after Peter denied Him 3 times.**

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It shows the great (cheched) love of the Lord.

We did not hear our Lord say to Peter, "See I told you, you will deny me three times" He wanted to reinstate Peter because He knew Peter was grieved and that's why He was asked Him three times so that He can erase all the three denials that Peter made.

IMPORTANT Notice: Jesus never mentioned to Peter about his denial or asked him why he denied Him. He just asked, “Do you love me?” OH THE LOVE OF THE LORD!!!

Isn’t that how the Lord loves us?

Hebrews 8:12 For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more."

God is a God of second and third and fourth and fifth chances.

Application : Isn’t that how we treat other people too when it comes to forgiveness. Isn’t that what love is all about?

Isn’t that what our Lord said to Peter before telling the Parable of the Unmerciful Servant
Matthew 18: 21 Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, “Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?”
22 Jesus answered, “I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times

And the Lord was showing this to Peter... because He knew Peter’s heart was repentant.

2. I love how Peter answered with “You know...”

John 21 : 15 When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” He said to him, “Feed my lambs.” 16 He said to him a second time, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” He said to him, “Tend my sheep.” 17 He said to him the third time, “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. 18 Truly, truly, I say to you, when you were young, you used to dress yourself and walk wherever you wanted, but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will dress you and carry you where you do not want to go.” 19 (This he said to show by what kind of death he was to glorify God.) And after saying this he said to him, “Follow me.”

In short : Peter’s love is not only lip service.

Peter acknowledges that our Lord is God and He knows everything...

- Peter loves Jesus from the heart.

And also ...

- Peter loves Jesus by choosing Him.

John 21 : 15 When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?

Remember, the context here is that Peter just came from fishing... and then they had an abundant catch.

The Lord is asking Peter, do you love me more than your old life? Do you love more than your career? Do you love me more than the blessings that I give you?

Note : It's because people say that they love and will follow Jesus but when it's a choice between their careers or their work...work comes first.

Or when our Lord takes away the "blessing", we don't follow Jesus.

That's why Peter said to our Lord... "You know that I love you."

What is the proof?

John 6: 67 "You do not want to leave too, do you?" Jesus asked the Twelve. 68 Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.

3. The exchange of question and answer of love of Jesus and Peter.

John 21 15 When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you truly love me (agapao) more than these?"

"Yes, Lord," he said, "you know that I love (phileo) you."

Jesus said, "Feed my lambs." 16 Again Jesus said, "Simon son of John, do you truly love (agapao) me?"

He answered, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love (phileo) you."

Jesus said, "Take care of my sheep." 17 The third time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love (phileo) me?"

Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, "Do you love me?" He said, "Lord, you know all things; you know that I love (phileo) you." Jesus said, "Feed my sheep."

Etymology : lexically (meaning) it's the same, the difference is in the action

Agapao – it's voluntary (I have decided to love you even if...)

Phileo - it's involuntary (I can't help but love you...)

I love the NIV translation : ...do you truly love (agapao) me?"

True love is agapao...it is more than a feeling, it's a commitment. We love even if...or in spite of...

In short : PARAPHRASE Jesus is saying to Peter, "Peter do you love me even if... or Peter do you choose to love me" and Peter would answer, "Lord, you know that I can't help but love you."

NOW, why would our Lord now change the last to Phileo?

Paraphrase : third time, Simon son of John, do you really can't help but love me?

WHY? I'LL SHOW YOU LATER.

4. The proof of our love for the Lord is FOLLOWING HIM.

- **In serving.**

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Important : Christian Living 101 is about a loving relationship with the Lord.

- We obey the Lord out of love.
- We serve others because we love the Lord.
- We go to church because we love the Lord and we want to see the brethren whom we decided to love.
- We pray because we want to be with the One we love.
- We fast because we say to the Lord, we love You more than we love our own basic need.

2 Corinthians 5: 14 For Christ's love compels us,

Paraphrase : third time, Simon son of John, do you really can't help but love me?

Jesus said, "Take care of my sheep." 17 The third time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love (phileo) me?"

Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, "Do you love me?" He said, "Lord, you know all things; you know that I love (phileo) you." Jesus said, "Feed my sheep."

- In suffering.

18 Very truly I tell you, when you were younger you dressed yourself and went where you wanted; but when you are old you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go." 19 Jesus said this to indicate the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God. Then he said to him, "Follow me!"

The proof of our love for the Lord is if we will continue to follow Him even He allows us to go through suffering for His glory!!!

CONCLUSION :

At the beginning of this sermon, we asked "Why Peter?" True, there are a lot of reasons why Peter is not deserving, just like us but God in his sovereign love chose us to be with Him.

And the only thing He is asking us to do when it comes to following Him...

1 Corinthians 16:14 Do everything in love.

Earlier, we asked, what's the credential of Peter?

This is the credential of Peter and the only one he needs.

Acts 4:13 When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus.

Because the Bible says, we cannot boast of anything but the only thing we can boast about is we know the Lord.

Jeremiah 9: 23 Thus says the Lord: "Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches, 24 but let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me,

S.G.D.