

4/6/14

SERIES: LUKE: THE SON OF MAN, THE SAVIOR  
HAS COME, WEEK 34

TITLE: **ALL THE KING'S MEN, PART II**

TEXT: LUKE 6:14A

INTRODUCTION: (1) PETER IS MY FAVORITE  
APOSTLE AMONG THE 12.

\* THE REASON BEING, I IDENTIFY WITH HIM  
MORE THAN ANY OF THE OTHER APOSTLES IN  
HIS WEAKNESS AND PERSONALITY.

\*\* AND WHAT I MEAN BY THAT IS, I LIKE TO  
CALL PETER, THE APOSTLE WITH THE FOOT  
SHAPED MOUTH FOR HE STUCK HIS FOOT IN HIS  
MOUTH FREQUENTLY, ESPECIALLY EARLY ON.

\*\*\* HOWEVER, OUR LORD CHANGED PETER FROM  
BEING IMPULSIVE AND REACTIVE AND STICKING  
HIS FOOT IN HIS MOUTH TO BE THE MAN HE  
USED IN A PROFOUND WAY EARLY ON IN THE  
CHURCH.

\*\*\*\* PETER IS ONE OF THE GREATEST EXAMPLES **OF GOD'S POWER BEING PERFECTED IN A** FLAWED FALLEN HUMAN BEING. PETER GIVES ME HOPE IN HOW CHRIST CAN CHANGE ME.

(2) FOR OUR LORD JESUS WOULD REFINE HIM INTO A VESSEL OF HONOR, AND IN THAT PROCESS WOULD MAKE HIM INTO A LEADER AMONG LEADERS, FIRST AMONG EQUALS, THE SPOKESMAN FOR THE 12.

\* IN FACT, PETER WAS BY FAR THE CENTRAL FIGURE, **BOTH DURING THE 3 YEARS OF JESUS'** EARTHLY MINISTRY AND DURING THE EARLY YEARS OF THE CHURCH AFTER PENTECOST IN ACTS 1-12.

\*\* AND THE 4 GOSPELS ARE LITERALLY FILLED WITH PETER'S NAME, 159 TIMES IN MY BIBLE, **AND PETER'S NAME IS MENTIONED IN THE** GOSPELS MORE THAN ANY NAME BUT JESUS.

\*\*\* BEYOND THAT NOBODY SPEAKS AS OFTEN AS PETER, AND NOBODY IS SPOKEN TO BY THE LORD AS OFTEN AS PETER.

\*\*\*\* NO DISCIPLE WAS REPROVED AS OFTEN OR AS SEVERELY AS PETER, AND NO DISCIPLE REPROVES THE LORD BUT PETER.

\*\*\*\*\* NO OTHER DISCIPLE SO BOLDLY CONFESSED CHRIST OR SO BOLDLY DENIED HIM.

\*\*\*\*\* NO ONE IS SO PRAISED AND SO BLESSED AS PETER AND NO ONE ELSE IS CALLED SATAN BUT PETER.

- AND OUR LORD HAD HARDER THINGS TO SAY TO PETER THAN HE EVER SAID TO ANY OF THE OTHER APOSTLES, BUT THAT WAS PART OF MAKING HIM THE MAN OF GOD HE WANTED HIM TO BE.

(4) AND THE QUESTION COMES UP AT THIS POINT, HOW COULD JESUS TAKE SUCH AN AMBIVALENT, IMPULSIVE, INCONSISTENT, AND SELF-CENTERED MAN AND MAKE HIM A LEADER AMONG LEADERS?

\* WELL, THE ANSWER TO THAT QUESTION COMES FROM THE SCRIPTURES, AND FROM THE WORD OF GOD TODAY STUDYING THE FIRST OF THE KING'S MEN, **WE'LL SEE PETER: A PORTRAIT OF A LEADER.**

\*\* AND AS OUR LORD PAINTS THIS PORTRAIT **FOR US IN HIS WORD, WE'LL LOOK AT 3 THINGS** IN THE LIFE OF PETER IN THE NEW TESTAMENT.

\*\*\* NO. 1 THE RIGHT RAW MATERIAL; NO. 2 THE RIGHT EXPERIENCES; AND NO. 3 THE RIGHT **ATTITUDES. AND WE'RE GOING TO LOOK AT A** LOT OF SCRIPTURE TODAY, AS WE NORMALLY DO, AS WE LOOK AT THE PICTURE THAT IS PAINTED ABOUT PETER.

\*\*\*\* AND FIRST OF **ALL WE'LL LOOK AT THE** RIGHT RAW MATERIAL AND I EMPHASIZE RAW, FOR PETER WAS A DIAMOND IN THE ROUGH. LOOK BACK AT LUKE 16:4A.

I. THE RIGHT RAW MATERIAL, (READ 6:14A)

A. NOW PETER IS MENTIONED FIRST IN ALL 4 LISTS OF THE APOSTLES IN MATTHEW, MARK, LUKE AND ACTS, SUGGESTING PETER WAS A LEADER AMONG LEADERS, A LEADER AMONG EQUALS, THE SPOKESMAN OF THE 12.

\* IN FACT, IN **MATTHEW'S LIST OF THE APOSTLES** HE SAYS IN MATTHEW 10:2 - "NOW THE NAMES OF THE TWELVE APOSTLES ARE THESE: THE FIRST, SIMON, WHO IS CALLED PETER, AND ANDREW HIS BROTHER; AND JAMES THE SON OF ZEBEDEE, AND JOHN HIS BROTHER."

\*\* NOW THE WORDS "**THE FIRST**" **DO NOT REFER** TO THE ORDER OF THE SELECTION OF THE APOSTLES BECAUSE JESUS CALLED ANDREW, **PETER'S BROTHER BEFORE HE CALLED PETER.**

\*\*\* AND IN THE CONTEXT OF MATTHEW 10, THE GREEK WORD FIRST, PROTOS, INDICATES FOREMOST, MEANING THAT PETER WAS AGAIN A LEADER AMONG LEADERS, A LEADER AMONG EQUALS, THE SPOKESMAN FOR THE 12.

\*\*\* NOW NEXT AS WE MOVE ON IN OUR TEXT IN LUKE 6:14, **WE SEE PETER'S ORIGINAL NAME IS LISTED FIRST, SIMON, AND HE WAS THE SON OF JONAS OR JOHN.**

\*\*\*\* AND SIMON WAS A COMMON NAME IN THAT DAY, BUT JESUS CHANGED HIS NAME IN JOHN 1:42 TO PETER IN THE GREEK AND CEPHAS **IN ARAMAIC WHICH MEANS "STONE".**

1. AND NO DOUBT THE LORD GAVE PETER AN ADDITIONAL NAME TO REMIND HIM OF THE MAN HE WOULD BECOME.

\* FOR YOU SEE BY NATURE PETER WAS VACILLATING AND UNSTABLE, BUT OUR LORD WAS GOING TO MAKE HIM INTO A STONE, FIRM AND SOLID.

\*\* PETER WAS A WORK IN PROGRESS, A FISHERMAN WHO WOULD BECOME A FISHER OF MEN.

\*\*\* AND PETER WAS A FISHERMAN BY TRADE ALONG WITH HIS BROTHER ANDREW. AND ORIGINALLY, PETER WAS FROM THE VILLAGE OF BETHSAIDA, BUT HE LATER MOVED TO CAPERNAUM, WHICH WAS THE HEADQUARTERS **FOR CHRIST'S GALILEAN MINISTRY.**

\*\*\*\* AND WE KNOW THAT PETER WAS MARRIED BECAUSE JESUS HEALED HIS MOTHER-IN-LAW IN LUKE 4:38&39, AND BECAUSE PAUL MADE MENTION OF THE FACT THAT PETER TOOK HIS WIFE ALONG ON HIS APOSTOLIC MISSION ACCORDING TO I CORINTHIANS 9:5.

- AND THIS FISHERMAN NAMED SIMON HAD A COMMON NAME, A COMMON TRADE, AND A COMMON MARITAL STATUS, BUT THE LORD SAW THE RIGHT MATERIAL FOR LEADERSHIP.

2. NOW WHAT WAS THE RIGHT RAW MATERIAL FOR LEADERSHIP? WELL, 3 THINGS STAND OUT. NO. 1 WE SEE PETER CONTINUALLY ASKING QUESTIONS OF JESUS.

\* HE ALWAYS WANTED TO KNOW THE WHAT, WHEN, WHERE AND WHY OF EVERYTHING THE LORD SAID AND DID.

\*\* AND YES MANY OF HIS QUESTIONS WERE SUPERFICIAL AND IMMATURE, BUT THEY REFLECTED A GENUINE CONCERN ABOUT JESUS AND HIS WORK.

\*\*\* AND ASKING QUESTIONS IS IMPORTANT, FOR A PERSON WHO DOES NOT ASK QUESTIONS HAS LITTLE CHANCE FOR SUCCESS AS A LEADER, BECAUSE HE HAS NO DESIRE OR WILLINGNESS TO INQUIRE ABOUT WHAT HE DOES NOT UNDERSTAND.

\*\*\*\* AND A LEADER MUST BE A LEARNER, AND **I'LL THROW THIS IN HERE, A LEADER MUST BE A READER.**)

\*\*\*\*\* AND PETER WAS NEVER RELUCTANT TO ASK JESUS ABOUT WHATEVER WAS ON HIS MIND. HE WANTED TO LEARN, HE WANTED ANSWERS.



3. LET ME ILLUSTRATE. WHEN PETER DID NOT UNDERSTAND WHAT JESUS MEANT WHEN HE **SAID THAT IT IS "NOT WHAT ENTERS INTO THE MOUTH THAT DEFILES THE MAN, BUT WHAT PROCEEDS OUT OF THE MOUTH," HE ASKED, "EXPLAIN THE PARABLE TO US" IN MATTHEW 15:15.**

\* WHEN PETER WAS CONCERNED ABOUT THE REWARD HE AND HIS FELLOW DISCIPLES WOULD GET FOR LEAVING ALL AND FOLLOWING JESUS, HE DID NOT HESITATE ASKING ABOUT IT, IN MATTHEW 19:27.

\*\* PETER WONDERED ABOUT THE FIG TREE THAT JESUS CAUSED TO WITHER IN MARK 11:21, AND WITH JAMES, JOHN AND ANDREW, HE ASKED JESUS TO EXPLAIN WHEN AND HOW THE TEMPLE WOULD BE DESTROYED IN MARK 13:4.

\*\*\* AFTER PETER WAS TOLD THAT HE WOULD BE A MARTYR FOR THE LORD, HE ASKED ABOUT **JOHN'S FATE IN JOHN 21:21 AND SAID: "LORD, AND WHAT ABOUT THIS MAN?"**

\*\*\*\* AND THEN PETER CAME TO THE LORD IN MATTHEW 18:21 AND ASKED (QUOTE MATTHEW 18:21&22).

**4. NOW PETER'S QUESTIONS SELDOM RECEIVED** THE ANSWER HE EXPECTED, BUT HE LEARNED A LOT IN THE PROCESS, AND THE LORD EVEN USED HIS POOR QUESTIONS TO PATIENTLY TRAIN HIM IN LEADERSHIP.

**\* AND BELOVED, IT'S GOOD TO ASK BIBLICAL** QUESTIONS AND TO DISCUSS THEOLOGY AND APPLICATIONS FROM IT. (ILLUST. MY CLASS AND OUR FLOCK).

\*\* AND PETER DIRECTED A LOT OF QUESTIONS TO THE RIGHT PERSON WITH BIBLICAL ANSWERS AND THAT WAS A PART OF THE RIGHT RAW MATERIAL THAT THE LORD WOULD USE.

\*\*\* BUT THERE ARE TWO OTHER THINGS ABOUT PETER IN HAVING THE RIGHT RAW MATERIAL THAT I WANT YOU TO SEE.

\*\*\*\* AND THE FIRST ONE IS PETER SHOWED INITIATIVE, ANOTHER NECESSARY INGREDIENT OF LEADERSHIP. AND JUST AS PETER WAS USUALLY THE FIRST TO ASK JESUS QUESTIONS, HE WAS ALSO USUALLY THE FIRST TO RESPOND TO QUESTIONS JESUS ASKED.

5. FOR EXAMPLE, WHEN THE LORD ASKED THE **DISCIPLES, "WHO DO YOU SAY THAT I AM?"** **PETER IMMEDIATELY REPLIED, "THOU ART THE CHRIST, THE SON OF THE LIVING GOD"** IN MATTHEW 16:15&16 (A PRETTY GOOD CONFESSION - HUH).

\* AND THEN WHEN THE SOLDIERS CAME TO ARREST JESUS IN THE GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE IN JOHN 18:10, WHAT DID PETER DO, DID HE STAND BY PASSIVELY? NO.

\*\* HE DREW HIS SWORD AND CUT OFF THE EAR **OF THE HIGH PRIEST'S SLAVE. AND I DON'T** THINK HE WAS AIMING FOR HIS EAR, DO YOU?

\*\*\* AND THOUGH THAT WAS WRONG, AND HIS INITIATIVE WAS MISGUIDED, PETER WAS READY TO RESPOND IN WHAT HE THOUGHT WAS **CHRIST'S BEHALF. AND EVENTUALLY THE LORD WOULD USE PETER'S INITIATIVE UNDER HIS CONTROL.**

6. AND THEN SECOND OF ALL, PETER POSITIONED HIMSELF IN THE MIDDLE OF ACTIVITY. HE WAS A NATURAL PARTICIPANT NEVER CONTENT TO BE ON THE SIDELINES.

\* HE STAYED AS CLOSE TO JESUS AS POSSIBLE AND WANTED TO BE A PART OF EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENED.

\*\* AND GET THIS, EVEN WHEN HE DENIED THE LORD, HE WAS AT LEAST AS NEAR TO JESUS AS HE COULD BE, WHEREAS ALL THE OTHER DISCIPLES WERE NOWHERE TO BE FOUND.

\*\*\* AND THEN WHEN PETER AND JOHN WERE **TOLD OF JESUS' RESURRECTION, PETER RAN TO THE TOMB ALONG WITH JOHN. AND MY POINT IS PETER WAS ALWAYS THERE.**

\*\*\*\* PETER WAS NOT A SPECTATOR. AND YET SPECTATOR CHRISTIANITY TODAY HAS BECOME **A POPULAR SPORT. IT'S TURNED INTO A SUNDAY MORNING EXERCISE WHEN THERE'S NOT SOMETHING ELSE TO DO.**

7. HOWEVER, THERE ARE ARMCHAIR QUARTERBACKS WHO NEVER GET INVOLVED IN THE MINISTRY AND WHO ARE HARDLY EVER INVOLVED IN THE FIELD OF PLAY AND THEY THINK THEY ARE PLEASING GOD WHEN THEIR LIVES REVOLVE AROUND EVERYTHING BUT CHRIST.

\* PETER WAS NOT A SPECTATOR, HE WAS A PARTICIPANT AND HE LEARNED TO BE FAITHFUL IN THE LITTLE THINGS AND GOD ENTRUSTED HIM TO DO GREATER THINGS, WHICH LEADS US TO OUR SECOND POINT TODAY, PETER HAD THE RIGHT EXPERIENCES.

## II. THE RIGHT EXPERIENCES

A. AND A SECOND ELEMENT IN PREPARING FOR LEADERSHIP IS HAVING RIGHT EXPERIENCES AND THE LORD PROVIDENTIALLY BROUGHT INTO **PETER'S LIFE ALL THE EXPERIENCES NECESSARY** TO DEVELOP HIS LEADERSHIP ABILITY.

\* AND FIRST OF ALL, JESUS GAVE PETER WONDROUS REVELATIONS. FOR EXAMPLE: WHEN PETER FIRST CONFESSED THAT JESUS WAS THE CHRIST, THE SON OF THE LIVING GOD, JESUS EXPLAINED TO HIM IN MATTHEW 16:16&17, BLESSED ARE YOU SIMON BARJONA, BECAUSE FLESH AND BLOOD DID NOT REVEAL THIS TO YOU, NO MAN TOLD YOU THAT, THE FATHER DID.

\*\* AND THEN **WHEN MANY OF JESUS' QUOTE** FOLLOWERS FORSOOK HIM BECAUSE OF HIS TEACHING ABOUT THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP, **THE LORD ASKED THE 12, "YOU DO NOT WANT TO GO AWAY ALSO, DO YOU?"**

**\*\*\* WELL, PETER'S RESPONSE ON THAT OCCASION SOUNDED PRETTY INSPIRED, FOR HE SAID, "LORD, TO WHOM SHALL WE GO? YOU HAVE WORDS OF ETERNAL LIFE. AND WE HAVE BELIEVED AND HAVE COME TO KNOW THAT YOU ARE THE HOLY ONE OF GOD,"** IN JOHN 6:66-68.

**\*\*\*\* AND PETER DIDN'T ALWAYS SAY THE RIGHT THINGS, BUT HE WAS LEARNING, AND WOULD BE USED TO PROCLAIM THE GREAT TRUTHS OF THE GOSPEL.**

1. AND PETER WAS GIVEN GREAT HONOR AND REWARD. FOR AFTER JESUS EXPLAINED TO PETER THAT THE TRUTH OF HIS CONFESSION IN MATT. 16 WAS REVEALED TO HIM BY THE FATHER HE SAID, IN MATTHEW 16:18&19, (QUOTE V. 18).

\* MATT. 16:19 - **"I WILL GIVE YOU THE KEYS OF THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN; AND WHATEVER YOU SHALL BIND ON EARTH SHALL HAVE BEEN BOUND IN HEAVEN, AND WHATEVER YOU SHALL LOOSE ON EARTH SHALL HAVE BEEN LOOSED IN HEAVEN."**

\*\* NOW THE LORD USED PETER TO PREACH THE GREAT SERMON AT PENTECOST TO THE JEWS, AND USED PETER TO BRING THE GOSPEL TO CORNELIUS, THE FIRST GENTILE CONVERT. PETER WAS USED BY GOD TO UNLOCK THE DOORS OF THE GOSPEL TO BOTH THE JEWS AND THE GENTILES.

\*\*\* **BUT ALSO IN PETER'S EXPERIENCES, HE RECEIVED GREAT REBUKE. FOR A SHORT WHILE AFTER JESUS HONORED PETER BY THE DECLARATION IN MATTHEW 16, PETER HIMSELF FELL, POSSIBLY FROM PRIDE, OVER WHAT THE LORD SAID TO HIM.**



\*\*\*\* FOR PETER REBUKED JESUS FOR SAYING THAT HE WAS GOING TO DIE AND BE BETRAYED AND BE RAISED UP ON THE THIRD DAY.

2. IN FACT PETER TOOK JESUS ASIDE AND **BEGAN TO REBUKE HIM SAYING, "GOD FORBID IT, LORD! THIS SHALL NEVER HAPPEN TO YOU."**

\* BUT HIS SEVERE REBUKE OF JESUS BROUGHT AN EVEN MORE SEVERE REBUKE FROM JESUS IN MATTHEW 16:21-23, **"GET BEHIND ME, SATAN! YOU ARE A STUMBLING BLOCK TO ME; FOR YOU ARE NOT SETTING YOUR MIND ON GOD'S INTERESTS, BUT MAN'S."**

\*\* PETER HAD AN EARTHLY PERSPECTIVE, NOT AN ETERNAL ONE, AND WAS GETTING IN THE **WAY OF THE FATHER'S PLAN FOR HIS SON.** PETER WAS A VOICE FOR SATAN AND NOT FOR GOD IN THAT CIRCUMSTANCE.

**\*\*\* AND THEN PETER'S EXPERIENCE BEFORE CHRIST'S DEATH WOULD BRING HUMILITY. FOR PETER PRESUMPTUOUSLY SAID, "EVEN IF I HAVE TO DIE WITH YOU, I WILL NOT DENY YOU."**

\*\*\*\* AND OF COURSE PETER THEN WOULD GO ON TO DENY THE LORD HOW MANY TIMES? THREE.

3. AND BELOVED IN OUR EXPERIENCES IN SERVING CHRIST, WE SHOULD NOT BE SELF-CONFIDENT, BUT CHRIST-CONFIDENT, KNOWING THAT WE CAN DO WHATEVER HE WANTS US TO DO BY HIS GRACE, BUT IN THE PROCESS, HAVE NO CONFIDENCE IN THE FLESH, QUOTE PHILIPPIANS 4:13, ROMANS 7:18, PROVERBS 16:18, ISAIAH 42:8, JAMES 4:6.

\* WELL, THE LORD HUMBLING PETER IN HIS PRESUMPTION AND SELF CONFIDENCE IN HIS EXPERIENCES, TO RAISE HIM UP AND USE HIM TO BECOME A GREAT LEADER FOR THE KINGDOM, SO GOD PROVIDENTIALLY PUT PETER THROUGH THE RIGHT EXPERIENCES, WHICH LEADS US TO OUR THIRD POINT TODAY, THE RIGHT ATTITUDES THAT WOULD FOLLOW AND THAT PETER WOULD EVEN WRITE ABOUT.

### III. THE RIGHT ATTITUDES

A. PETER LEARNED THE RIGHT LESSONS AND ATTITUDES IN THE PROCESS OF HIS TRAINING. AND FIRST OF ALL BECAUSE LEADERS CAN EASILY BECOME DOMINEERING, THEY HAVE A SPECIAL NEED TO LEARN SUBMISSION.

\* AND JESUS WOULD TEACH PETER SUBMISSION IN MANY WAYS, EVEN TO EARTHLY AUTHORITIES. FOR EXAMPLE, WHEN THE CAPERNAUM TAX COLLECTORS DEMANDED A TWO-DRACHMA TEMPLE TAX FROM JESUS, HE COMMANDED PETER TO GO AND CATCH A FISH, IN WHOSE MOUTH WOULD BE A STATER, EXACTLY ENOUGH TO PAY THE TAX FOR BOTH JESUS AND PETER IN MATTHEW 17:24-27.

\*\* AND FROM THAT EXPERIENCE PETER LEARNED A LESSON NOT ONLY IN SUBMITTING TO JESUS BUT HUMAN AUTHORITIES FOR PETER WOULD LATER WRITE IN HIS FIRST EPISTLE IN I PETER 2:13&14&17 (QUOTE VV. 13&14).

\*\*\* I PETER 2:17 - **"HONOR ALL** PEOPLE; LOVE THE BROTHERHOOD, FEAR GOD, HONOR THE **KING.**" (AND HOW HARD IS THAT TODAY? THE VERB HONOR IS IN THE IMPERATIVE MOOD.)

\*\*\*\* AND PETER WENT FROM BEING A MAN WHO WAS READY TO GO AFTER A ROMAN COHORT WHEN THEY CAME AND ARRESTED JESUS TO A MAN THAT SUBMITTED TO A GOVT. THAT EVENTUALLY WOULD HAVE HIM KILLED.

1. BUT PETER ALSO LEARNED HUMILITY, THAT WAS ANOTHER RIGHT ATTITUDE HE LEARNED, FOR HE WOULD SAY IN I PETER 5:5&6 (QUOTE IT). AND THESE BEFORE & AFTER PICTURES ARE BEAUTIFUL.

\* PETER WOULD ALSO LEARN THE LESSON OF LOVE FROM CHRIST IN JOHN 21:15-19 WHERE **OUR LORD WOULD ASK PETER, "SIMON SON OF JOHN, DO YOU LOVE ME?"**

\*\* AND JESUS WOULD TEACH PETER A GREAT LESSON THERE, BUT ALSO HE WOULD BE PAIRED UP WITH WHO IN MINISTRY BEFORE AND AFTER **CHRIST'S DEATH?**

\*\*\* JOHN, THE APOSTLE OF LOVE. AND PETER WOULD WRITE IN I PETER 4:7&8. (THE PHRASE PETER AND JOHN IS USED 8 TIMES IN SCRIPTURE.)

2. BUT PETER ALSO LEARNED TO BE SACRIFICIAL AND COURAGEOUS, GOING FROM DENYING THE LORD AND BEING FEARFUL ABOUT MARTYRDOM AND WANTING TO KNOW IF JOHN WOULD BE MARTYRED TO BEING BOLD AND COURAGEOUS AND WILLING TO SUFFER FOR JESUS, QUOTE I PETER 4:12&13, 16 & 19, ACTS 4:13 AND ACTS 5:29.

\* AND BELOVED PETER LEARNED THE RIGHT LESSONS AND DEVELOPED THE RIGHT **ATTITUDES IN CHRIST'S SCHOOL OF LEADERSHIP** TRAINING.

AND AS I WRAP UP THIS PORTRAIT OF PETER TODAY, (1) LET ME SAY, YES PETER OFTEN LEARNED HIS LESSONS SLOWLY, BUT HE LEARNED THEM WELL, SO THERE IS HOPE FOR ALL OF US TO BE THE LEADERS THAT CHRIST WANTS US TO BE AT HOME, IN THE CHURCH, IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD, AT WORK, ETC.

\* FOR CONSIDER THESE THINGS ABOUT PETER AFTER JESUS HIS TEACHER ASCENDED TO HEAVEN, BEYOND HIS TWO EPISTLES.

\*\* HE TOOK THE INITIATIVE TO SEEK SOMEONE TO REPLACE JUDAS AMONG THE APOSTLES IN ACTS 1:15, BECAME THE FIRST SPOKESMAN OF THE CHURCH AT PENTECOST IN ACTS 2:14.

\*\*\* WAS THE FIRST TO DEFEND THE GOSPEL BEFORE THE SANHEDRIN IN ACTS 4:8, WAS THE FIRST TO ENACT CHURCH DISCIPLINE (IN DEALING WITH THE DECEIT OF ANANIAS AND SAPPHIRA) IN ACTS 5:3-9.

\*\*\*\* PETER CONFRONTED SIMON THE MAGICIAN **WHEN HE ATTEMPTED TO PERVERT GOD'S** POWER TO HIS OWN ADVANTAGE IN ACTS 8:18-23, HEALED AENEAS AND RAISED DORCAS FROM THE DEAD IN ACTS 9:34, 40.

2. PETER WAS THE FIRST TO TAKE THE GOSPEL **TO THE GENTILES IN ACTS 10, AND THAT'S NOT** EVERYTHING HE DID IN THE BOOK OF ACTS, BUT ON TOP OF THAT WAS INSPIRED TO WRITE TWO MARVELOUS EPISTLES IN WHICH HE HUMBLY INCLUDED ALL THE LESSONS JESUS HAD PATIENTLY TAUGHT HIM.

\* PETER WAS A MAN GOD TOUCHED WITH HIS GRACE IN A SPECIAL WAY. AND AS A WANDERING HEART THAT MOST OF US IDENTIFY WITH, GOD FINALLY GOT A HOLD OF HIM AND TURNED HIM INTO A GREAT LEADER.

\*\* PETER WOULD HAVE SUNG JOYFULLY THE **WORDS OF ROBERT ROBINSON'S BELOVED HYMN, "COME THOU FOUNT OF EVERY BLESSING"** WHICH SAYS:



\*\*\* O TO GRACE HOW GREAT A DEBTOR, DAILY  
**I'M CONSTRAINED TO BE, LET THY GOODNESS,**  
LIKE A FETTER, BIND MY WANDERING HEART TO  
THEE.

\*\*\*\* PRONE TO WANDER, LORD, I FEEL IT, PRONE  
TO LEAVE THE GOD I LOVE; TAKE MY HEART, O  
TAKE AND SEAL IT, SEAL IT FOR THY COURTS  
ABOVE." (BOY DO I IDENTIFY WITH THAT, LET IT  
BE OUR PRAYER).

3. FINALLY, TRADITION REPORTS THAT PETER  
DIED A CRUEL DEATH. AND BEFORE HE HIMSELF  
WAS CRUCIFIED, HE IS SAID TO HAVE BEEN  
FORCED TO WITNESS THE CRUCIFIXION OF HIS  
WIFE.

\* IN HIS ECCLESIASTICAL HISTORY, THE EARLY  
CHURCH FATHER EUSEBIUS WRITES THAT PETER  
**STOOD AT THE FOOT OF HIS WIFE'S CROSS AND  
KEPT REPEATING TO HER, "REMEMBER THE  
LORD, REMEMBER THE LORD."**

\*\* AFTER SHE DIED, IT IS SAID HE PLEADED TO BE CRUCIFIED UPSIDE DOWN, BECAUSE HE WAS UNWORTHY TO DIE AS HIS LORD HAD DIED.

**\*\*\* PETER'S LIFE CAN BE SUMMED UP IN THE** LAST WORDS OF HIS SECOND EPISTLE, WHICH IS OUR CHALLENGE TODAY, QUOTE II PETER 3:18.

\*\*\*\* BUT FOR THE UNBELIEVER TODAY, GOOD NEWS, GOD SAVES SINNERS LIKE PETER AND ME. TURN TO JESUS CHRIST IN REPENTANT FAITH TODAY AND HE WILL SAVE YOU. HOPE TODAY FOR YOU IS IN JESUS CHRIST, GOD THE SON WHO WILL SAVE YOU IF YOU TURN TO HIM TODAY, QUOTE JOHN 6:37 AND ROMANS 10:13 AND PRAY.

## V. 14A - SIMON, WHOM HE ALSO NAMED PETER