

**John 21:15-25**  
Martyrs: Peter 1

*Follow me ...*

- I. Peter in The Gospels
  - A. The Call to Follow
  - B. Character Development
    - 1. A Learning Curve
    - 2. A True Confession
- II. A Crisis of Faith
  - A. Courage in Question
  - B. Crushed in Confidence
- III. The Compassionate Christ
  - A. Reinstated
  - B. Forwarned

*... follow me.*

**Children, Listen ...**

1. What do you know about Peter?
2. How did Peter fail Jesus?
3. What did Jesus do with Peter after He rose from the dead?
4. What did Jesus say would happen to Peter one day?

**Christ's Chisel & The "Rock"**

With the exception of Paul, Peter is the apostle we get to know the best in the Bible. We learn a lot about his courage and a lot about his cowardice. He is strong in faith, but also quite misguided at times. We hear him make the most vivid confession of Christ and we hear him rebuked by Jesus soon thereafter. We watch him follow the Lord fearlessly and see him flee the scene in absolute fear. We hear him deny the Master with anguished curses and find him hiding with his fretful companions. Through it all we discover that the "Rock" was being chiseled into a sturdy pillar of the church. It seems that things had to be chipped away in order for him to become magnificently useful for the Kingdom of his Savior. Reinstated and commissioned by the resurrected Savior and eventually filled with the Holy Spirit, Peter is equipped to be a bold and courageous witness for the Lord of Heaven. But his glorious call will come with a cost. He has much work ahead of him, but Jesus graciously informs him that one day he will make the ultimate sacrifice by giving his life for the One who died for Him.

"Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you,  
that he might sift you like wheat,  
but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail.  
And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers."  
Luke 22:31-32