

Peter

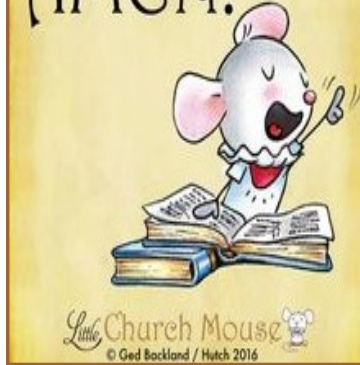
"The Disciples"



Peter is represented with keys which show his confession and the Lord's gift to him of the keys of the kingdom, Matt 16:18-19. The keys are often shown with an inverted cross.

Would you like to be like Peter? He was just a simple man who fished for his living. Just a simple man like you and me, just simple people doing our job every day. He loved Christ and was very loyal to him many times but he was also a Sinner like you and me. He betrayed Christ just whenever things were really tough for Christ. He followed him faithfully but then when things got tough all of a sudden his human nature kicked in and he became afraid for his own life on earth. Sometimes we are sinners also and then sometimes we can be like Peter when we want to be like Christ and our faith is strong.

DEAR GOD,
I want to take a minute.
Not to ask for anything
from you, but to simply say
thank you, for all I have.
AMEN.



No disciple is talked about as much in the Bible as Peter. Matthew probably had more knowledge of dealing with money. Some disciples were carpenters, and were able to actually build church buildings. Others had other talents, but Christ saw something in Peter that made him special in many ways. We have each been given talents. Sometimes we want to use them, and sometimes we want to hide them so we don't have to work. Sometimes our faith is strong and we speak out about the love that Christ has for us, but sometimes we almost act like Peter and seem to pretend that we don't even know who he is.

After Christ had preached to the 5,000 near the Sea of Galilee and fed them, he sent the disciples ahead of him in a boat to cross the Sea of Galilee. They had had some very rough days. John the Baptist had been beheaded, and the crowds were pressing to make Jesus an earthly king because of all the miracles He was performing.

A storm came up and the disciples saw someone walking on the water towards them. They had crossed this sea many

"After breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, 'Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?' 'Yes, Master, you know I love you.' Jesus said, 'Feed my lambs.' He then asked a second time, 'Simon, son of John, do you love me?' 'Yes, Master, you know I love you.' Jesus said, 'Shepherd my sheep.' Then he said it a third time: 'Simon, son of John, do you love me?' Peter was upset that he asked for the third time, 'Do you love me?' so he answered, 'Master, you know everything there is to know. You've got to know that I love you.'" John 21:15-19

times before. But they were frightened when they saw this figure walking on the water. They thought it might be a ghost. But Jesus spoke up and said to them *"Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid."* Then Peter questioned again and asked if he were really Christ that he be able to walk on water also. Christ told him to get out of the boat and go to him. He stepped on the water, and his humanness took over again! The wind kicked up, the waves rolled, and he began to sink. Christ reached out, caught him, and questioned *"Why did you doubt O ye of little faith."* There are many lessons for us in this story.

Many times we fail to recognize that Christ is with us in our storms of life. If we reach out, through prayer, He is there. We, like Peter, start out with good intentions, but then we fail. Only when we realize that God is in control are we able to accomplish those things that we need to do.

Peter traveled with Christ a lot. He witnessed many miracles. He was one of those chosen to witness the transfiguration, and he was one of the three who saw Jesus in agony in the Garden of Gethsemane. But for all that he saw and knew, he was still very much a human being like you and me.

Peter denied Christ three times before the crucifixion. The Bible tells us that as soon as the rooster began to crow, Peter knew that he was “guilty as charged.” Yet he was the one chosen by Christ to lead the church after he was gone. Many times Christ questioned him, and while Peter wanted to believe. He also wanted to be sure. He wanted to know everything like we do at times. Faith is not easy.

Many times Peter would tell Christ, “*Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.*” Along with his questioning, he never gave up. He made many mistakes, but he asked for forgiveness and Christ forgave him. He asked for special favors, like the healing of his mother-in-law. He had many talents, and Christ knew he could do the work that He needed done after Christ left this earth.

We are many times like Peter. We make great speeches and then we don't follow through. We say we are going to do something, but we don't quite get to it. Peter wanted to be so much more. Christ allowed him to do all that he wanted to do. We are permitted that same joy. If we really want to ‘feed the sheep’ we have that opportunity every day by the way we live, talk, work, and pray. We cannot be like Christ, but can we be like Peter? Sometimes, we, like Peter, forget that God is in control.

*Clothe yourselves with
humility toward one
another, because God
opposes the proud but
gives grace to the humble*
1 Peter 5:5

Our human frailties take over and we fail many times, but many times we are successful. God will never give us a task to do that He does not feel we can handle. He knows our weaknesses, but He also knows our strengths. He knows better than we do that our feet are made of clay.

The Serenity Prayer

*“God grant me the serenity
to accept the things I cannot change;
courage to change the things I can;
and wisdom to know the difference.*

*Living one day at a time;
Enjoying one moment at a time;
Accepting hardships as the pathway to
peace;
Taking, as He did, this sinful world
as it is, not as I would have it;
Trusting that He will make all things
right if I surrender to His Will;
That I may be reasonably happy in
this life and supremely happy with
Him forever in the next.
Amen.”*

The Serenity Prayer by Reinhold Niebuhr

“We walk by faith, not by sight.” 2 Corinthians 5:7

Prayer: Dear Heavenly Father. You know our strengths and weaknesses much better than we do. Please Lord, help us to be like You as much as possible in our serving day by day. Help us to feed your sheep by putting our hand in Your hand. Amen.

1. Why Peter? Why You. Why Me?
2. How are we like Peter?
3. Are we chosen to do the same work as Peter?
4. Do we ever deny Christ?
5. Do we speak out when we should, and sometimes when we should not?
6. Do we ask for forgiveness and then set out to make things right?
7. Are we willing to give a tithe of our resources to serving Him and the church as we feed the sheep?

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