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THE FIRST EPISTLE OF

P E T E R

Matthew 4:18-20 [The Message]

Walking along the beach of Lake Galilee, Jesus saw two brothers: Simon (later called Peter) and Andrew. They were fishing, throwing their nets into the lake. It was their regular work. [19] Jesus said to them, "Come with me. I'll make a new kind of fisherman out of you. I'll show you how to catch men and women instead of perch and bass." [20] They didn't ask questions, but simply dropped their nets and followed.

The Apostle Peter had been a fisherman until Jesus called him to become a fisher of men.

He lived in Bethsaida, on the north end of the Sea of Galilee, before moving to Capernaum where he resided during Jesus' ministry. His brother was Andrew.

He was a man with many facets of character. His life can be approached from many angles. He was naturally impulsive.

Matthew 14:28

Peter, suddenly bold, said, "Master, if it's really you, call me to come to you on the water."

Matthew 17:4 (On Mount Hermon, the Mount of Transfiguration)

Peter broke in, "Master, this is a great moment! What would you think if I built three memorials here on the mountain—one for you, one for Moses, one for Elijah?"

John 21:7

Then the disciple Jesus loved said to Peter, "It's the Master!"

When Simon Peter realized that it was the Master, he threw on some clothes, for he was stripped for work, and dove into the sea.

He was tender-hearted and affectionate.

Matthew 26:75

Peter remembered what Jesus had said: "Before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times." He went out and cried and cried and cried.

John 13:9 (At the last supper)

"Master!" said Peter. "Not only my feet, then. Wash my hands! Wash my head!"

Peter was often very courageous, as seen in his confession of faith in Christ:

Matthew 16:16

1 *Simon Peter said, "You're the Christ, the Messiah, the Son of the living God."*

2
3 But at the same time, he showed dreary cowardice in his denial of Christ at Caiaphas'
4 house:

5 Mark 14:67-71

6 *A girl, seeing Peter warming himself there, looked hard at him and said, "You were*
7 *with the Nazarene, Jesus."*

8 *[68] He denied it: "I don't know what you're talking about." He went out on the porch.*
9 *A rooster crowed.*

10 *[69] The girl spotted him and began telling the people standing around, "He's one of*
11 *them." [70] He denied it again.*

12 *After a little while, the bystanders brought it up again. "You've got to be one of them.*
13 *You've got 'Galilean' written all over you."*

14 *[71] Now Peter got really nervous and swore, "I never laid eyes on this man you're*
15 *talking about."*

16
17
18

At Baniyas, Jesus asked His disciples, "Whom do people say I am?" They hemmed and hawed around until Jesus confronted Peter, "Whom do YOU say I am?" Peter said, "You are the Christ, the Messiah, the Son of God!" At that point Jesus responded, "You are Peter (*petros - little stone*); but upon this rock (*Petra - rock*) I will build my church." What rock? The rock of faith that prompts a person to claim Christ as the Messiah. The church was not built on Peter, as some claim, but rather on FAITH - FAITH in God's Christ!

19
20 THE BOOK OF FIRST PETER HAS TO DO WITH THE FOLLOWER OF CHRIST
21 AND SUFFERING. PETER KNEW A GREAT DEAL ABOUT THIS SUBJECT.

22
23 Jesus warned Peter about the death he would personally suffer:

24
25 **John 21:17-22**

26 **Then Jesus said it a third time: "Simon, son of John, do you love me?"**

27 **Peter was upset that he asked for the third time, "Do you love me?" so he**
28 **answered, "Master, you know everything there is to know. You've got to know that**
29 **I love you."**

30 **Jesus said, "Feed my sheep. [18] I'm telling you the very truth now: When you**
31 **were young you dressed yourself and went wherever you wished, but when you get**
32 **old you'll have to stretch out your hands while someone else dresses you and takes**

1 you where you don't want to go." [19] He said this to hint at the kind of death by
2 which Peter would glorify God. And then he commanded, "Follow me."

3 [20] Turning his head, Peter noticed the disciple Jesus loved following right
4 behind. [21] When Peter noticed him, he asked Jesus, "Master, what's going to
5 happen to him?"

6 [22] Jesus said, "If I want him to live until I come again, what's that to you?
7 You—follow me."

8
9 Several decades went by in which Peter, now filled with the Holy Ghost (Acts 2)
10 traveled across the Middle East, Turkey and even as far East as Babylon, preaching the
11 Gospel. But in 61 A.D., the insane Emperor Nero sentenced Peter to death by
12 crucifixion. *Legend has it that Peter considered himself not worthy to die in the same*
13 *manner as his Lord and begged his executioners to crucify him upside down.*
14
15

16 **VIDEO: FROM THE CBS MINISERIES "PETER AND PAUL" RELEASED
IN 1981 - NOW AVAILABLE ON VHS OR DVD. This clip opens as Nero takes
a final look at Peter in his death cell.**

17
18 In this short epistle (letter), Peter teaches about THE SAINT AND SUFFERING.
19 The teaching comes from someone who knew about the subject!

20 THE CHRISTIAN CAN HAVE JOY DESPITE SUFFERING

21 CHAPTER ONE

22 1 Peter 1:1 [New Living Translation]

23 **This letter is from Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ.**

24 **I am writing to God's chosen people who are living as foreigners in the lands of
25 Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, the province of Asia, and Bithynia.**

26
27 1. Peter writes this letter to fellow Christians primarily in Asia Minor - but, in effect, to
28 all of us.

29
30 2. In verse 2, Peter touches on a powerful thought:

31 1 Peter 1:2

32 **Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of
33 the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto
34**

1 **you, and peace, be multiplied.**

2
3 1. Let's touch on that word "elect."

4
5 It DOES NOT mean there are some people who can be saved and some who cannot.
6 This is NOT predestination. Scriptures teach that whosoever will may come! It means
7 simply that those who choose God are then chosen by Him to be blessed for eternity.
8

9 2. Now let's touch on the words "foreknowledge of God."

10
11 God has had a plan from the very beginning. Nothing comes as a shock to Him. He
12 knew that mankind would sin. And He had a plan for the redemption of fallen man.
13

14 3. But being redeemed does not mean that we are exempt from difficulties in this world.
15

16 **1 Peter 1:6-8**

17 **So be truly glad! There is wonderful joy ahead, even though it is necessary for you**
18 **to endure many trials for a while.**

19 **[7] These trials are only to test your faith, to show that it is strong and pure. It is**
20 **being tested as fire tests and purifies gold—and your faith is far more precious to**
1 **God than mere gold. So if your faith remains strong after being tried by fiery trials,**
22 **it will bring you much praise and glory and honor on the day when Jesus Christ is**
23 **revealed to the whole world.**

24 **[8] You love him even though you have never seen him. Though you do not see**
25 **him, you trust him; and even now you are happy with a glorious, inexpressible joy.**
26

27 What precious promises!

28
29 Our FAITH is more precious to God than gold.

30 We can REJOICE even in difficult times with UNSPEAKABLE JOY.
31

32 4. NOW GOD CALLS US TO A LIFE OF HOLINESS:
33

34 **1 Peter 1:15-16**

35 **But now you must be holy in everything you do, just as God—who chose you to be**
36 **his children—is holy. [16] For he himself has said, "You must be holy because I am**
37 **holy."**
38

39 1. Holiness is not outward appearance, although modesty becomes a child of God.
40 ***Holiness is moral, mental, social, and spiritual health.***

1
2 **Hebrews 12:14**

3 **Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord:**

4
5
6 CHAPTER TWO

7
8 1. Peter teaches us that the Christian is to GROW UP AND START EATING REAL
9 FOOD:

10
11 **1 Peter 2:2**

12 **As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:**

13
14 Paul wrote to the Corinthians:

15
16 **1 Cor. 3:1-2**

17 **And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal,**
18 **even as unto babes in Christ. [2] I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for**
19 **hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able.**

20
21 2. Both Peter and Paul were strong in their instruction to Christians to mature in the
22 faith. Notice Peter's emphasis here:

23
24 **1 Peter 2:9**

25 **But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar**
26 **people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of**
27 **darkness into his marvelous light:**

- 28
29 – a royal priesthood ... every believer has a responsibility to God and to mankind
30 – a holy nation ... how? Because Christ is our righteousness

31
32
33 CHAPTER THREE

34
35 In this profound chapter, Peter tells us that our Christian behavior begins in the HOME.

36
37 **1 Peter 3:1**

38 **Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any obey not**
39 **the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives;**
40

1 **1 Peter 3:1 {The Message}**

2 **The same goes for you wives: Be good wives to your husbands, responsive to their**
3 **needs. There are husbands who, indifferent as they are to any words about God, will**
4 **be captivated**

5
6 1. There are some husbands who leap on that word subjection or submission and think
7 they have suddenly become lord and master over their wives. Such is simply not the
8 case.

9
10 That is covered fully by Paul in
11 **Ephes. 5:25**

12 **Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself**
13 **for it;**

14
15 2. For the sake of order and progress, there has to be headship.

16
17 That goes in a church, a business, a nation - anywhere. In a home or marriage, the
18 headship has been given to the husband.

19
20 There are several areas where there needs to be understanding in a marriage:

21
22 A. The physical plane....which refers to more than sex. Tenderness, sweet words, a
23 touch, holding each other

24
25 B. The psychological plane were the husband and wife enjoy the same things.
26 That does not mean they have to like to do everything together....but there should be a
27 good list of things the two enjoy doing together.

28
29 C. The spiritual plane ... the two of you uniting with God makes a strong cord.
30 **Eccles. 4:12**

31 **And if one prevail against him, two shall withstand him; and a threefold cord is**
32 **not quickly broken.**

33
34 **CONDUCT IN THE CHURCH**

35
36 **1 Peter 3:8-15**

37 **Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren,**
38 **be pitiful, be courteous: [9] Not rendering evil for evil, or railing for railing: but**
39 **contrariwise blessing; knowing that ye are thereunto called, that ye should inherit a**
40 **blessing. [10] For he that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue**

1 from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile: [11] Let him eschew evil, and do
2 good; let him seek peace, and ensue it. [12] For the eyes of the Lord are over the
3 righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is
4 against them that do evil.

5 [13] And who is he that will harm you, if ye be followers of that which is good?

6 [14] But and if ye suffer for righteousness' sake, happy are ye: and be not afraid of
7 their terror, neither be troubled; [15] But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and
8 be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope
9 that is in you with meekness and fear:

10
11 1. I love this passage and have preached from it often.

12
13 Verse 8 says we are to have compassion on each other....to love each other....and to
14 be courteous.

15
16 Verse 10 says the Christian is a person who loves life.

17
18 Verse 14 says that even as Christians we can have difficulties in life.

19
20 Verse 15 teaches us to "sanctify the Lord."

21 22 CHAPTER FOUR

23
24 This chapter emphasizes that the believer is OBEДИENT to Christ's commands.

25 26 **1 Peter 4:1**

27 **Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves**
28 **likewise with the same mind: for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from**
29 **sin;**

30
31 This verse teaches us that we do not LIVE in sin. A believer might incidentally
32 stumble once or twice but he or she does not DWELL in sinful living. Such as:

33 34 **1 Peter 4:3**

35 **You've already put in your time in that God-ignorant way of life, partying night**
36 **after night, a drunken and profligate life. Now it's time to be done with it for good.**

37
38 1. Several times in his writings, Peter reminds us of the end of time when we face God
39 and he does so with a sense of urgency:

1 **1 Peter 4:7**

2 **But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer.**

3
4 1. The word “sober” here really means facing the facts of life with INTELLIGENCE.
5 That intelligence is gained from knowing, believing and obeying what the Word says.

6
7 A part of that “intelligence” is understanding that not everything will always be rosy:

8
9 **1 Peter 4:12**

10 **Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as**
11 **though some strange thing happened unto you:**

12
13 “How could something like this happen to me?” We live in a world still under the
14 curse.

15
16 CHAPTER FIVE

17
18 1. This chapter gives pastors strong counsel:

19
20 **1 Peter 5:1-2**

21 **I have a special concern for you church leaders. I know what it's like to be a**
22 **leader, in on Christ's sufferings as well as the coming glory. [2] Here's my concern:**
23 **that you care for God's flock with all the diligence of a shepherd. Not because you**
24 **have to, but because you want to please God. Not calculating what you can get out of**
25 **it, but acting spontaneously. The Message**

26
27 I like the KJV better:

28
29 **1 Peter 5:1-2**

30 **The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of**
31 **the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed: [2]**
32 **Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by**
33 **constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind;**

- 34
35 1. Feed the flock! A church is no stronger than what is preached from the pulpit.
36
37 2. Take the oversight! The buck for everything stops at the pastor's desk!
38
39 3. The under-shepherd is not a hireling. He would give the same service no matter
40 what the pay was. Why? Because:

1 **1 Peter 5:4**

2 **And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that**
3 **fadeth not away.**

4
5 **YOU CAN GET BUSH-WHACKED ALONG THE WAY!**

6
7 **1 Peter 5:7-9**

8 **Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you. [8] Be sober, be vigilant;**
9 **because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he**
10 **may devour: [9] Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions**
11 **are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.**

12
13 1. Satan wants to destroy you! Don't underestimate his cunning (while, at the same
14 time, don't over-estimate his power).

15
16 2. RESIST HIM! You have responsibility here! It's your life so take some
17 responsibility of it. Don't blame others.

18
19 **CLOSING**

20
21 **1 Peter 5:10-14**

22 **But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus,**
23 **after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you.**
24 **[11] To him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.**

25 **[12] By Silvanus, a faithful brother unto you, as I suppose, I have written briefly,**
26 **exhorting, and testifying that this is the true grace of God wherein ye stand. [13] The**
27 **church that is at Babylon, elected together with you, saluteth you; and so doth**
28 **Marcus my son. [14] Greet ye one another with a kiss of charity. Peace be with you**
29 **all that are in Christ Jesus. Amen.**

30
31 1. Notice the reference to "Marcus" - or Mark. Mark's gospel is primarily the thoughts
32 and memories of Jesus from Peter, given to his protégé, John Mark.