

PETER: SIFTED LIKE WHEAT

Luk.22:31-34

Peter: Brother of Andrew, married 1Co.9:5

Fisherman called to be “fisher of men”. Luk.5:10

Named changed to Cephas by Jesus. Joh.1:42 (descriptive: “rock”).

Disciple of Jesus, chosen to be one of the Apostles. Luk.6:12-16

Always named first; part of “inner circle” Luk.8:51

Naturally a leader; outspoken, impetuous.

Tried to dissuade Jesus from suffering. Mat.16:23

Protested Jesus washing his feet. Joh.13:6-9

Involved with the others in a dispute about “greatest.” Luk.22:24-30

TO BE SIFTED LIKE WHEAT

Peter's bold protestations of faith to be tested.

Wheat or chaff? Substance or “words”?

Will his faith fail under trial?

Will Peter be able to “turn again” after trial?

Will Peter be a strength to brethren or a “hiss and byword”?

Jesus prayed for Peter.

PETER'S BOLD PROTESTATIONS OF FAITH TESTED

Sampling:

Mat.14:28-31 “command me to come to you on the water”

Mat.16:16 “Thou art the Christ.”

Mat.17:4 “I will make three tabernacles here, one for You, Moses, and Elijah.”

Mat.19:27 “left all to follow you.”

Mat.26:33 “though all may fall away because of You, I will never fall away.”

His denial (Luk.22:60) put his faith to the supreme test.

PETER'S WILLINGNESS/RESOLVE TO ‘TURN AGAIN’ TESTED

Jesus’ look brought tears. Luk.22:61

How difficult to later face Apostles (especially John, who let Peter in. Joh.18:16)

How could He face Jesus after the resurrection?

There was no way to “save face.” Had to “own up to,” confess, repent.

This hurdle had to be cleared, if he were to go on.

BEING A STRENGTH TO HIS BRETHREN PUT TO TEST

When he spoke the Gospel, he was arrested along with others. Act.4:18-20

When he performed miracles, beaten and threatened. Act.5:27-32

When some objected to Gentiles in the church, Peter spoke out. Act.15:6-11

PETER SURVIVED! Through it all his faith was made stronger.

Demonstrated strength to “turn again.” He became a strength to his brethren.

LESSONS FOR US

Loud protestations of “I will, even if others may not” not necessarily a sign of strength.

“Thinking one stands” is prelude to fall. 1Co.10:12

Ignoring “way of escape” invites disaster.

Strength is not found within, but in Christ. Phi.4:13

Tears can either blur vision or clear eyes so as to see clearly. 2Co.7:9-10

Feeling sorry for self (“Woe is me”) reflects inner blindness.

Refusing to see or admit faults prevents corrective action.

When “caught in trespass” we need to have tears of godly sorrow.

When we have sinned, we need to “turn again.”

Don’t concern self with “saving face”—save soul!

Having been tested one can be a strength to brethren, or a whining complainer.

Wallowing in self-pity helps no one, hurts self.

No matter how tested, we can survive and be a help to others. Indeed we must be!