

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
Red Bud, Illinois
Adult Bible Class
"Jesus' Twelve Apostles: Up Close and Personal"

The Highs and Lows of Simon Peter (continued)

See Matthew 14:22-33. What do the disciples think they are seeing when Jesus came to them walking on the water? _____

How does Peter show his own doubt in verse 28? _____

How does Peter display faith in verse 29? _____

How does Peter show doubt in verse 30? _____

How does Peter display faith in verse 30? _____

While we should never be satisfied with a faith that can be described as "little," even such an amount of faith is enough for us to look to Jesus in our troubles and be saved by Him.

Jesus has picked followers who are not the "heroes" of Greek mythology or the Knights of the Round Table of medieval lore. Jesus called people to be His disciples who are very much like each one of us.

See Matthew 19:23-29. Jesus had finished speaking to a rich young man who considered himself to be a very righteous person. Jews of the 1st century AD were taught by their rabbis that material wealth was a sign of God's love and favor to those who obeyed Him. Jesus touched the point of this man's idolatry by telling him to sell his possessions and give the money to the poor.

The camel was the largest animal in the Middle East. The eye of the needle was the smallest opening they knew. The contrast between the two sizes represents what humanly speaking is impossible. The disciples, trained to think that wealthy people were closer to God, despair of anyone being saved if rich people have such a hard time of it.

What is Peter's compliant in verse 27? _____

What is Jesus' answer to Peter's question (verse 29)? _____

See Matthew 26:31-35. The setting is the Upper Room where Jesus has finished the Passover meal and the giving of the Lord's Supper to the 12 apostles.

Verse 31: What does Jesus say they will do that night? _____

Verse 32: What does Jesus promise that He will do? _____

Verse 33: What promise does Peter make? _____

Verse 34: What truth does Jesus reveal to Peter? _____

Verse 35: What pledge do Peter and the others make? _____

See John 18:1-11. After Jesus and the Twelve finish the Passover meal, Judas must have went one way while Jesus and the others went east out of Jerusalem across the Kidron Valley to the olive grove garden called Gethsemane. Judas shows up later with soldiers and Jewish officials in order to hand Jesus over to them. **Verse 10: What weapon does Simon Peter have?** _____

(The Greek word means a butcher knife, dagger, or small sword about 18 inches long. Concealed weapons obviously were legal in Jerusalem at that time but must not have required mandatory training!)

How good was Peter's aim with that sword? _____

Whom did Peter pick to attack with that sword? _____

See **Matthew 26:69-75**. Who was the first person to challenge Peter? _____

Verse 72: How did Peter emphasize his denial of Jesus? _____

Verse 73: How did those in the courtyard know Peter was with Jesus? _____

Verse 74: How did Peter emphasize his third denial of Jesus? _____

Verse 75: How did Peter respond when the rooster crowed? _____

See **John 21:1-19**. Risen from the dead Jesus did not stay with His followers on a daily basis as He had before His crucifixion. Instead it seems that He appeared to them on a number of occasions over a forty-day period until He ascended into heaven before their eyes.

Verse 3: What does Peter “fall back on” when he doesn’t know that else to do? _____

While Peter had given up on the business of fishing in order to follow Jesus as a disciple, we see here that Peter did not give up on fishing entirely. He had “retired” from fishing about as completely as a farmer “retires” from farming.

Verse 4: Why might the disciples not have realized that it was Jesus standing on the shore?

Verse 5: How successful had they been during their night of fishing? _____

Verse 6: What happens when they do what Jesus tells them? _____

Verse 7: What does Peter do when he hears that it was Jesus? _____

(We would do just the opposite, i.e., take some clothes off when we jump into the water. Jews regarded a greeting as a religious act that could only be done when one was clothed. Perhaps Peter may have been preparing himself to greet the Lord.)

Verse 11: What does Peter do when the boat gets to shore? _____

(Remember that Peter just swam a hundred yards from the boat to the shore.)

What might this tell us about his size and physical strength? _____

Verses 15-17: (see article below)