

Studies in I Peter (1)

Peter -- The Making of a Man of God

Introduction

- A. Every Christian has tried to imagine what it was like to be associated with the Lord Jesus when He was here upon earth.
- B. We can gain an insight into those memorable days, and answer our questions, through the way God worked with Peter.
- C. The goal before us is to find, understand, and apply the truths the Lord Jesus taught His friend. We may be able to apply some of these to ourselves today -- and thereby be taught of God.

I. Peter's Conversion -- he was led to the Lord Jesus by Andrew.

*And the next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world ... One of the two which heard John speak, and followed him, was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. He first findeth his own brother Simon, and saith unto him, We have found the Messias, which is, being interpreted, the Christ. And he brought him to Jesus, and when Jesus beheld him, he said, Thou art Simon the son of Jona. Thou shalt be called Cephas, which is by interpretation a stone (Peter).
John 1:29, 40-42*

A. John the Baptist -- the man with a message.

- 1. John was the promised forerunner of the Lord Jesus. Matt. 3:1-6
- 2. John's birth was announced by the angel Gabriel. Luke 1:5-80
- 3. John was "sent from God" to witness to Jesus Christ. John 1:6-8
- 4. John was commended by the Lord Jesus. Luke 7:24-28

Comment: John's birth, ministry, and message was and is God's provision, not only for Peter -- but also for us.

B. The message given by John -- "Behold the Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world."

- 1. "Behold" -- the challenge to understand and believe. The object of our faith, its power, and its content is a person -- the Lord Jesus.

"My sheep hear my voice ... and follow me." John 10:27

- 2. "The Lamb" -- the description of the Lord Jesus. He was the fulfillment of the Old Testament passover and sacrifice. Isaiah prophesied of Him:

All we like sheep have gone astray, we have turned every one to his own way, and the Lord hath laid on him (the Lord Jesus) the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth. He is brought as a lamb to the slaughter . . . Isaiah 53:6,7

3. "The Lamb of God" -- the provision of a Redeemer in Jesus Christ. The emphasis is on God's compassion and His plan to solve the guilt, bondage, and death among His people. The Lord Jesus is the solution.
4. "Which taketh away the sin of the world" -- the method of redemption. The Greek word is "take up - carry away." Note that it is "sin" that was dealt with in the Crucifixion -- that which caused God and man to be separated, which produced Hell, which brought guilt, condemnation, bondage to sins - the world - and Satan, and which brought spiritual, physical, and eternal death. There is redemption in Jesus Christ.

Comment: We cannot merely think about this great message -- we must respond. It is a terrible sin to know the plan of salvation and the work of the Lord Jesus -- and then not respond by the acts of repentance, faith, and thanksgiving.

C. The response of Andrew -- he brought his brother Peter to the Lord Jesus.

1. The evidence of Andrew's faith: "Heard John speak and followed him."
2. The evidence of Andrew's concern: "He first findeth his own brother Simon ... and he brought him to Jesus."

Comment: Andrew is an example to us not only in his faith but in his concern for Peter. The truth he had learned about the Lord Jesus demanded a response -- his response was Biblical.

D. The Lord Jesus spoke to Peter -- to his mind and to his heart.

1. Andrew had undoubtedly recounted to Peter what he had learned from John the Baptist. The apostle summarized his belief and conversation by the words "We have found the Messiah." John 1:41
2. It was the identification of the Lord Jesus as "The Lamb of God" that caught Peter's attention. As a Jew he was expecting the Messiah. For him to realize under divine illumination and conviction that the Messiah had come and was to die as the Lamb of God -- brought about Peter's salvation.
3. John records how the Lord Jesus simply looked at Peter, spoke his name, and gave him a new name - Rock. In that moment Peter found the answers, not only to his questions, but also to the longing of his heart.
 - a. Peter had been prepared by the Holy Spirit for Andrew's testimony and for this meeting with the Lord Jesus.
 - b. The Savior told Peter what he would become -- through the grace of God -- in his character and in his ministry to others.
4. Peter's salvation experience is the pattern for ours.
 - a. The relationship with the Lord Jesus.
 - b. The Savior meeting the needs of the heart.
 - c. The assurance about the future.