

Studies in I Peter (2)

Peter-- The Making of a Man of God

Introduction

- A. Peter had been won to the Lord through the faith and concern of his brother Andrew (John 1:41).
- B. Following his conversion Peter responded to an earlier call of the Lord Jesus (Matthew 4:18-20), but never left his trade as a fisherman. Perhaps the first call was but preparation.
- C. While only a few were ever called to be apostles we see in Peter's call principles that apply in the life of every believer. His call has become a form of divine revelation for all of us.

Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it. I Thess. 5:24

II. Peter's Call to Active Discipleship. (Luke 5:1-11)

- A. The instruction of the Lord Jesus.

And when he had left speaking, he said unto Simon, Launch out into the deep, and let down your nets for a draught. V4

- 1. Since Peter believed the Lord Jesus was the Son of God and therefore knew all things - His instructions were confusing -- they were not in harmony with good fishing.
- 2. In these moments Peter was probably reminding himself that he was the fisherman and the Lord Jesus was the carpenter.
- 3. The Savior challenged Peter to look beyond his own wisdom and ability and learn to act on the wisdom and ability of God.

- B. Peter's reluctant obedience.

And Simon answering said unto him, Master, we have toiled all the night, and have taken nothing. Nevertheless at thy word I will let down the net. V5

- 1. In salvation Peter had pledged himself to obey the Lord Jesus. But now he was faced with what seemed a contradiction to truth.
- 2. His partners and many along the shore knew this was not the time to fish. He would look foolish if he obeyed the Savior.
- 3. Peter's reply told the Savior how fruitless the effort will be. Nevertheless His instructions will be followed. The response of Peter is a classic illustration of obedience without faith.

C. The miraculous harvest of fish.

And when they had this done, they inclosed a great multitude of fish, and their net brake. And they beckoned unto their partners, which were in the other ship, that they should come and help them. And they came, and filled both the ships, so that they began to sink. Vs 6,7

1. It would seem that Peter let down the nets rather close to shore. Even so the nets filled with more fish than the two boats could hold.
2. The Savior was teaching Peter that he was being called into a divine partnership. When he was given instructions -- he was to obey in faith because the words were invested with power.
3. Peter was not only to be given ability to obey, he was assured that his obedience would bring fruitfulness and success.

The words that I (the Lord Jesus) speak unto you, they are spirit and they are life. John 6:63

For our gospel came not unto you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Spirit, and in much assurance. . . I Thessalonians 1:5

For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God, which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe. I Thessalonians 2:13

For the word of God (our instructions) is quick (living) and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword. . . Hebrews 4:12

D. Peter's fearful confession.

When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord. V8

1. Knowing his lack of faith and reluctant obedience Peter is overwhelmed with the awareness of his own unworthiness and personal inadequacy to follow the Savior -- and he makes that confession - calling himself a sinner.
2. His petition -- "Depart from me" -- is a request that the Lord Jesus would call someone else in his place.
3. It is significant that Peter formerly used the title "Master" -- but now he calls the Savior -- "Lord."

E. The Divine Commission.

And Jesus said unto Simon. Fear not, from henceforth thou shalt catch men. V10

1. The command not to be afraid was an injunction for Peter to stop looking at his own sinfulness and inadequacies.
2. The prophecy that he would catch men was a promise of success, not only in ministry but also in his own spiritual life.