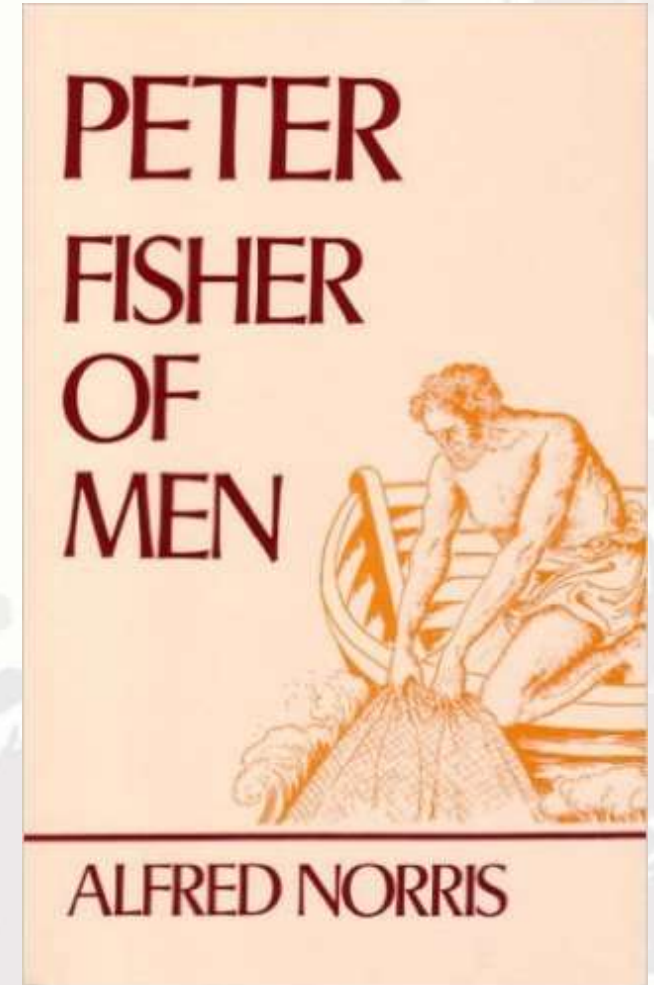




**Simon Peter
- Denials &
conversion**

A wonderful character to study

“...Peter stands out as a shining example of a man of faith. He starts quietly, quickly realises with whom he has to deal and adjusts himself to an attitude of obedience and reverence, acknowledges his failures with a humility and an understanding which take away every vestige of self-excusing from us, and rises ultimately to heights which compel our admiration.”



The four gospel records*

Jesus's prediction, Peter's denials and subsequent remorse...

Matthew

ch. 26
v
31 - 35,
69 - 75

Mark

ch. 14
v
27 - 31,
66 - 72

Luke

ch. 22
v
31 - 34,
54 - 62

John

ch. 13 v
36 - 38;
ch. 18 v
15 - 27

...but is this the complete story?

**** Emphasising the importance of this lesson***

Taking a broader character context

1

“Began Jesus to shew... must... suffer”
(Matt. 16 v 21)

Peter’s response: “this shall not be unto thee” (v. 22)

Peter, due to his loving admiration of the Lord, wished him to be spared (but this was ill-advised)

2

“All ye shall be offended because of me”
(Matt. 26 v 31)

Peter’s response: “though all men... yet will I never” (v. 33)

Peter’s devotion to his Lord convinced him of his future loyalty and allegiance

3

“Thou also wast with Jesus of Galilee”
(Matt. 26 v 69)

Peter’s response: “I do not know the man” (v. 72)

Peter, in extremis, did not have the right response to trial

4

“Simon... lovest thou me more than these?”
(Jho. 21 v 15)

Peter’s response: “Thou knowest that I love thee” (v. 15)

Peter committed to follow Jesus...

5

“Thou shalt stretch forth thy hands”
(Jho. 21 v 18)

... ultimately laying down his life (crucifixion)

“When thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren”
(Luke 22 v 32)

Peter's 'conversion' in microcosm

- The **dramatic change** that occurred...

Matthew 10 v 33

In a moment of weakness Simon Peter did deny his Lord

³³ But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven.

Matthew 16 v 24

²⁴ Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.

Having learnt the lesson, Simon Peter had to deny his own feelings and subject himself to God's plan with the Lord (and himself)

John 21 v 18

¹⁸ Verily, verily, I say unto thee, When thou wast young, thou girdedst thyself, and walkedst whither thou wouldest: but when thou shalt be old, thou shalt stretch forth thy hands, and another shall gird thee, and carry thee whither thou wouldest not.

A closer examination



Examining the prediction in detail

Matthew 26 v 31-35

Mark 14 v 27-31

Luke 22 v 31-34 "You" plural (disciples)

John 13 v 36-38 The "Satan" = High Priest/Sanhedrin?

³¹ Then saith Jesus unto them, All ye shall be offended because of me this night: for it is written, I will smite the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock shall be scattered abroad.

Prophecy from Zechariah 13 v 7, see context

Galilee – the location of another three-part test

³² But after I am risen again, I will go before you into Galilee.

³³ Peter answered and said unto him, Though all men shall be offended because of thee, yet will I never be offended.

Peter believed he would succeed where others might fail

³⁴ Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, That this night, before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice.

³⁵ Peter said unto him, Though I should die with thee, yet will I not deny thee. Likewise also said all the disciples.

Extreme situation – extreme trial... what might we have said?

²⁷ And Jesus saith unto them, All ye shall be offended because of me this night: for it is written, I will smite the shepherd, and the sheep shall be scattered.

Same Greek word used by Peter in speech of Acts 3 v 19

²⁸ But after that I am risen again, I will go before you into Galilee.

²⁹ But Peter said unto him, Although all shall be offended because of thee, yet will not I.

Note, "with thee"

³⁰ And Jesus saith unto him, Verily I say unto thee, That this day, even in this night, before the cock crow twice, thou shalt deny me thrice.

Extra detail:

³¹ But he spake the more vehemently, If I should die with thee, I will not deny thee in any wise. Likewise also said they all.

cock crow twice

³¹ And the Lord said, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat.

"Thee" singular (Simon Peter)

³² But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren.

³³ And he said unto him, Lord, I am ready to go with thee, both into prison, and to death.

³⁴ And he said, I tell thee, Peter, the cock shall not crow this day, before thou shalt thrice deny that thou knowest me.

"Simon, Simon" becomes "Peter", the desired change

³⁶ Peter said unto him, Lord, whither goest thou? Jesus answered him, Whither I go, thou canst not follow me now; but thou shalt follow me afterwards.

"Fail" = Gk. ekleipo = to be eclipsed (s.w. Luk. 23 v 45)

³⁷ Peter said unto him, Lord, why cannot I follow thee now? I will lay down my life for thy sake.

³⁸ Jesus answered him, Wilt thou lay down thy life for me? Verily, I say unto thee, The cock shall not crow, till thou hast denied me thrice.

"Now" is the emphasis and

"I am ready"

Examining the fulfilment in detail

Matthew 26 v 69-75

Mark 14 v 66-72

Peter's loyalty in following Jesus to the place of his trial
 Luke 22 v 54-62

John 18 v 15-18, 25-27

69 Now Peter sat without in the palace: and a damsel came unto him, saying, **Thou also wast with Jesus of Galilee.** 70 But he denied before them all, saying, I know not what thou sayest. 71 And when another maid saw him, and said unto them that were there, **This fellow was also with Jesus of Nazareth.** 72 And again he denied with an oath, **I do not know the man.** 73 And after a while came unto him they that stood by, and said to Peter, **Surely thou also art one of them; for thy speech bewrayeth thee.** 74 Then began he to curse and to swear, saying, **I know not the man. And immediately the cock crew.** 75 And Peter remembered the word of Jesus, which said unto him, Before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice. And he went out, and wept bitterly.



66 And as Peter was beneath in the palace, there cometh one of the maids of the high priest: 67 And when she saw Peter warming himself, she looked upon him, and said, **And thou also wast with Jesus of Nazareth.** 68 But he denied, saying, **I know not, neither understand I what thou sayest.** And he went out into the porch; and the cock crew. 69 And a maid saw him again, and began to say to them that stood by, **This man was also with him.** 70 And he denied it again. And a little after, they that stood by said again to Peter, **Surely thou art one of them: for thou art a Galilaean, and thy speech agreeth thereto.** 71 But he began to curse and to swear, saying, **I know not this man of whom ye speak.** 72 And the second time the cock crew. And Peter called to mind the word that Jesus said unto him, Before the cock crow twice, thou shalt deny me thrice. And when he thought thereon, he wept.

54 Then took they him, and led him, and brought him into the high priest's house. And Peter followed afar off. 55 And when they had kindled a fire in the midst of the hall, and were set down together, Peter sat down with them, as he sat by the fire, and earnestly looked upon him, and said, **This man was also with him.** 57 And he denied him, saying, **Woman, I know him not.** 58 And after a little while another saw him, and said, **Thou art also of them.** And Peter said, **Man, I am not.** 59 And about the space of one hour after another confidently affirmed, saying, **Of a truth this fellow also was with him: for he is a Galilaean.** 60 And Peter said, **Man, I know not what thou sayest.** And immediately, while he yet spake, the cock crew. 61 And the Lord turned, and looked upon Peter. And Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said unto him, Before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice. 62 And Peter went out, and went bitterly.

15 And Simon Peter followed Jesus, and so did another disciple: that disciple was known unto the high priest, and went in with him into the palace of the high priest, 16 But Peter stood at the door without. Then went out that other disciple, which was known unto the high priest, and spake unto her that kept the door, and brought in Peter. 17 Then saith the damsel that kept the door unto Peter, **Art not thou also one of this man's disciples?** He saith, **I am not.** 18 And the servants and officers stood there, who had made a fire of coals; for it was cold: and they warmed themselves: and Peter stood with them, and warmed himself. [...] 25 And Simon Peter stood and warmed himself. They said therefore unto him, **Art not thou also one of his disciples?** He denied it, and said, **I am not.** 26 One of the servants of the high priest, being his kinsman whose ear Peter cut off, saith, **Did not I see thee in the garden with him?** 27 Peter then denied again: and immediately the cock crew.

Courage but then doubt, as with walking on water (Mark 14 v 29-30)

Marks of truthfulness... light of fire... then "went out" cp. Jho. 3 v 19

Heard by Jesus?

A look of disapproval? Surely, rather, love and compassion

Peter and John (who does not name himself) access the palace

Jesus trial for life; Peter trial of loyalty

"Peter stood with them" - a significant phrase? Cp. v. 5

Gk. *klaio* = sob/wail aloud
 Gk. *pikros* = violently

Two tests of three ques

(a) agape – deep, sacrificial love, deliberate
(p) phileo – affectionate regard, to cherish

In the courts of the high priest's palace

At the banks of the sea of Galilee

“When thou art converted”

- Rooster/cockerel call indicates the **dawning of a new day**

Note the possible irony, for a moment cocksure/cocky(?)



- A **new phase** in the life of Simon Peter begins...
- How much did this **fuel his Apostleship**? *[as with A. Paul]*

“When thou art converted”

<John 21v15-17>

¹⁵ So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me more than these? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, **Feed my lambs.** ¹⁶ He saith to him again the second time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, **Feed my sheep.** ¹⁷ He saith unto him the third time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third time, Lovest thou me? And he said unto him, Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love thee. Jesus saith unto him, **Feed my sheep.**

<1 Peter 5v2>

² **Feed the flock of God** which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind;

4

THE FLOCK OF GOD
SHOULD BE FED
AND TENDED

<Luke 22v24-26>

²⁴ And there was also a strife among them, which of them should be accounted the greatest. ²⁵ And he said unto them, The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them; and they that exercise authority upon them are called benefactors. ²⁶ But ye shall not be so: but he that is greatest among you, let him be as the younger; and he that is chief, **as he that doth serve.**

<John 13v4-5>

⁴ He riseth from supper, and laid aside his garments; and took a towel, and **girded himself.** ⁵ After that he poureth water into a bason, and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel wherewith he was girded.

<1 Peter 5v3, 5>

³ Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock. ⁵ Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and **be clothed with humility;** for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.

Thayer's "engkomboomai – to fasten or gird on oneself"

GLORY CANNOT
COME WITHOUT
SUFFERING FIRST

1

<Matthew 16v21-23>

²¹ From that time forth began Jesus to shew unto his disciples, how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and **suffer many things** of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day. ²² Then Peter took him, and began to rebuke him, saying, Be it far from thee, Lord: this shall not be unto thee. ²³ But he turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men.

<1 Peter 1v10-11>

¹⁰ Of which salvation the prophets have inquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace that should come unto you: ¹¹ Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow.

A READY ANSWER
SHOULD BE
PROVIDED TO ALL

2

<Matthew 26v69-74>

⁶⁹ Now Peter sat without in the palace: and **a damsel came** unto him, saying, Thou also wast with Jesus of Galilee. ⁷⁰ But he denied before them all, saying, I know not what thou sayest. ⁷¹ And when he was gone out into the porch, **another maid** saw him, and said unto them that were there, This fellow was also with Jesus of Nazareth. ⁷² And again he denied with an oath, I do not know the man. ⁷³ And after a while came unto him **they that stood by,** and said to Peter, Surely thou also art one of them; for thy speech bewrayeth thee. ⁷⁴ Then began he to curse and to swear, saying, I know not the man. And immediately the cock crew.

<1 Peter 3v14-15>

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

THE GREATEST IS
SERVANT OF ALL

3

What might we have done?

“True character is revealed in the choices a human being makes under pressure - the greater the pressure, the deeper the revelation, the truer the choice to the character's essential nature.” Robert McKee (Screenwriter)

- We are **all failing creatures** and at times human nature comes to the fore (as seen in the discourse of Romans 7)
- The question is how will we **use these moments as opportunities** for our own **personal conversion**?
- We, like Simon Peter, may at times falter, but **the true measure is how we continue onwards** after this...

