

## **Peter, From Disciple to Denial, Devotion, and Dedication (Matthew 4:19; 26:69-75; John 21:15-19)**

### **Introduction**

Being a Hero of faith is not an easy thing. One needs to heed the call and be ready to pay the price.

- The true gospel call to follow the Lord Jesus Christ is a call to self-denial.
- It is not a man-centered call of self-fulfillment.
- It is a call of counting the cost, must be willing to die to self.
- The gospel calls sinners to submit fully to Christ. (Luke 14:26-33).
- Jesus was never guilty of making things easy for sinners to follow Him, but rather demanded a life of devotion and commitment that goes till the very end.
- Jesus said in Luke 9:62, “No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.”

The Apostle Peter stands as a great example to this truth:

### **Peter’s Call to be a Disciple**

Matthew 4:19, When Jesus saw Simon Peter and his brother Andrew, He called them: “Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.”

When the Lord’s call of discipleship came, they immediately followed Him (v 20).

- The call was to be transformed and share the ministry permanently with Christ—“Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.”
- The result was they “left their nets” and followed Him—they entered into a new relationship with Christ and would never again be able to fully return to the occupation they once held so dear.

Peter followed the Lord closely, and he was able to experience the mighty presence and power of God in his life. And, the Lord was preparing him to share His ministry (Matthew 16:13-19).

### **Peter’s Denial**

Matthew 26:57-58, 69-75 >> This was one of the darkest moments in Peter’s love relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ.

- Peter followed Christ “afar off”, means at a distance.
- But in such a dark moment, the love of the Savior followed him (Luke 22:61>> “And the Lord turned, and looked upon Peter”).

On the day Jesus arose, the angel at the empty tomb told the women (Mark 16:7), “But go, tell His disciples **and Peter**, ‘He is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see Him, just as He told you.’”

- Those words, “*and Peter*,” would have rang in Peter’s ears and lifted his depressed spirit after his miserable denials of his Lord.
- It assured him that the Lord had not rejected him because of his failure.
- That same day, Jesus met privately with Peter to reassure him and restore him personally (Luke 24:34; 1 Cor. 15:5).

## **Peter's Devotion**

## **Peter's Dedication**

## **Conclusion**

The lesson we learn from today's passages is that God requires a genuine love and commitment from us.

- When there is genuine love and commitment unto the Lord, even if we fall, we will rise up from the fall, and carry on the journey with the Lord.