

Changed – The Story of Peter

Series: Easter Collage

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The Story Of Peter:

- Peter is one of the most recognizable disciples. As seen in the Gospels, he was hasty, impulsive, quick to respond and react. God will change him and use him.
- In **Lk. 5:1–11** Jesus calls His first disciples, and Peter is one of them. Peter addressed Jesus as “Master”, recognizing the authority Christ had. Peter’s life as a disciple had many points to it. He asked Christ about forgiveness (**Mt. 18**). He got out of the boat to walk on the water.
- Note **Mt. 26:30–35**, Jesus tells the disciples that things are going to happen to Him and that the apostles would scatter because of what is about to take place.
- In **Mt. 26:33** Peter is emphatic that even if the other disciples fall away, there is no way that he would do the same. He basically said it would not happen.
- In **Mt. 26:34** Jesus tells Peter that before the night is over, he would betray Christ three times. Peter, in **vs. 35**, shows that he is bound and determined to prove to Christ that he will be loyal. “No way” is what Peter says.
- In **Mt. 26:35** the disciples jump on board with Peter, and they, too, claim that they would never forsake Christ.
- **Lk. 22:54–62** and **Mt. 26:69–75** gives us details about that fateful night. In **Lk. 22:55–56** Peter tries to blend. A servant girl recognized him. She literally “stared” at him.
- In **Lk. 22:57** Peter denies knowing Christ. Another person notices him in **Lk. 22:58**. **Mt. 26:72** tells us Peter took an oath that he did not know “the man.” Jesus is no longer the Messiah, He is just “the man.”
- We read in **Mt. 26:73** that his accent gave him away. He even calls for judgment upon himself (**Mt. 26:74**).
- In **Lk. 22:61** Christ turns and looks at Him. See **Lk. 22:62**.

**** A few thoughts from Peter's story: (1)** Pride and self-boasting can mess us up; **(2)** Be careful how close we get to the fire; **(3)** Don't pass over the teachings of Jesus.

Changed

When God forgives, He forgives completely

- This does not mean we can live any way we want to (**Rom. 6:1**). When we sin, we need to repent.
- If we do not believe we are forgiven, the guilt and the frustrations of life will bind us (**Rom. 4:7-8**).
- Christ appeared to Peter after the resurrection, and I think it was to assure Peter all was not lost (**Lk. 24:54; 1 Cor. 15:5**).
- **Practical:** Forgive others because we are forgiven (**Eph. 4:30-32**). Believe we are forgiven.

Change may require confrontation

- Do not take this as a negative. Every one of us has areas in our life that need work.
- In **John 21** Jesus asked Peter about his commitment. This is seen in the interaction when Christ asks Peter whether he loved the Lord or not.
- The Lord knew that unless Peter made some changes, what he was called to do would not get done.
- **Practical:** The power of God can help us overcome any sin and issue in our life (**2 Cor. 5:17; Rom. 8:29**).

Easter gives purpose

- Peter had a purpose as we all do. In **Acts 2**, he gave the message that launched the church.
- As Christians, we have a mandate. We are here to carry on God's mission to the world. We all have a purpose, being a difference-maker for God.
- **Practical:** God has made us new in Him. There is more to life than just the daily routine. Allow God to use us to help fulfill what He wants to do – touch lives.

God is in the business of life-change. God also is willing to use us to carry out
His work in the world