

Salt n Light Reflections
Podcast Episode # 20
Peter's Journey of Growth

Bible Study

Read the below & Be sure to check out the Questions & Assignments at the end. If you haven't listen to the episode yet, be sure to if you would like).

With Peter, he was a fisherman who became a leader, His Story is inspirational, as someone who dealt with fear, and doubt, He was able to be used in a mighty way for YAHUVEH GOD, for YAHUSHUA (JESUS). Even though yes, he denied YAHUSHUA (JESUS), later on he died in HIS name.

Lets take a look at who Peter was, - and overview:

1. Peter , was originally named Simon, and was a fisherman from Galilee and one of the 12 Disciples.

2. He had a brother named Andrew who introduced him to YAHUSHUA (JESUS).
3. YAHUSHUA (JESUS) named him Peter, which means " Rock ".
4. He denied YAHUSHUA (JESUS) 3 times during HIS trial.
5. After the Resurrection, YAHUSHUA (JESUS) asked Peter 3 times if he Loved HIM> restoring him.
6. Beleived to have been crucified upside down in Rome under Emperor Nero.
7. YAHUSHUA (JESUS) called Peter while he was fishing, and HE said to him " Follow me, And I will make you Fishers of Men.

Some key moments, would be :

- He attempted to walk on water but sank because He lost his focus on YAHUSHUA (JESUS), which was a lesson of doubting not having faith.
- He acted as a spokesperson for the apostles
- After YAHUSHUA (JESUS) accension, Peter became a leader in the early Christian community, preaching and he also performed miracles.

I think what we can see, in Peters life, is themes of Faith, failure, but also restoration and redemption. We all have struggles, we all make mistakes as humans, and

just because we do doesn't mean we cannot be used for YAH'S honor and glory. We need to learn from our mistakes, just like Peter did. We have to keep striving to do our best to be pleasing to YAH, and allow HIM to help us overcome the things we need to, because HE has given us the Victory! Praise YAH for this.

The New name Peter meaning Rock, represented the solid foundation of Faith that Peter would learn and build in others.

John 1:42

"He brought him to YAHUSHUA (JESUS), YAHUSHUA looked at him and said" You are Simon the son of John. You shall be called Cephas (Which means Peter)."

Another verse from Matthew 16:18

"And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock, I will build my church, and the gates of hades will not overcome it"

Peter was a fisherman before he became one of the Disciples, I think what is neat about this, is He became a "fisher of men" for YAHUSHUA. I also think what's fascinating is he learned from being a fisherman, was

being humble, hard worker, things he could later on apply to his ministry work. Fishing wasn't easy, as it took much strength, patience and perseverance. All of this helped him it shaped him to be a disciple. When you stop to think about that- reflect on how YAH has used things lessons trials things you have went through that has helped you to do what HE has called you to do. You see HE shapes and molds us, into HIS liking. Sometimes the hardest things we face can really be what HE uses the most, I should say all of what we face is used for HIM for HIS honor and glory. This is what helps us to learn in our faith, and also growing in the Fruits of the SPIRIT. What the enemy meant for evil YAH can turn around for our Good.

Peter witnessed, key events like the transfiguration in Matthew 17:1-9

The Transfiguration

" And after six days, YAHUSHUA took with him peter, and james, and John his brother and led them up a high mountain by themselves. And he was transfigured before them and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became white as light. And behold, there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. And Peter said to YAHUSHUA " Lord, it is good

that we are here, if you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you, and one for Moses and one for Elijah. He was still speaking when behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them and a voice from the cloud said :“ This is my beloved SON, with whom I am well pleased , listen to HIM. When the disciples heard this, they fell on their faces and were terrified. But YAHUSHUA (JESUS) came and touched them, saying “ Rise and have no fear” And when they lifted up their eyes, they saw no one but JESUS YAHUSHUA only. And as they were coming down the mountain, JESUS YAHUSHUA commanded them, “Tell no one the vision , until the SON of YAH is raised from the dead.”

Peter in attempt to defend YAHUSHUA (JESUS) during his arrest cut off the ear of Malchus, a servant of the High Priest. (John 18:10)

“Then Simon Peter, having a sword, drew it and struck the High priest's servant and cut off his right ear.”

This impulsive action reflected Peters protective love for YAHUSHUA, JESUS) but YAHUSHUA instructed him to put away HIS sword.

As I mentioned earlier, we all have weaknesses, just like Peter did. In Matthew 26:34 He denies YAHUSHUA but, wept bitterly, afterwards which shows true repentance. It also humbled him and later on strengthened his Faith and resolve to follow YAHUSHUA.

On the morning, of the resurrection, when Mary Magdalene told Peter and John that YAHUSHUAS Body was missing, they both ran to the tomb. Although John was first, it was peter who first entered in to the tomb first. John 20: 3 - 6.

" So Peter went out with the other disciple, and they were going toward the tomb. Both of them were running together, but the other diciple outrain Peter and reached the tomb first. And stooping to look in, he saw the linen cloths lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him and went into the tomb. He saw the linen cloths lying there."

Peter was a leader among the apostles , at Pentecost he was bold in his preaching to the crowd, and he was able to explain the significance of the HOLY SPIRIT's coming and calling people to repentance. What is neat is His message, was able to lead to 3,000 people being

baptized that day. Praise YAH! (Acts 2:14-41). I think this is so encouraging.

Peter's Sermon at Pentecost

¹⁴ But Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them: “Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and give ear to my words. ¹⁵ For these people are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day.^[a] ¹⁶ But this is what was uttered through the prophet Joel:

¹⁷ ““And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams;

¹⁸ even on my male servants and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and they shall prophesy.

¹⁹ And I will show wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and vapor of smoke;

²⁰ the sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the day of the Lord comes, the great and magnificent day.

²¹ And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.'

²² "Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know— ²³ this Jesus,^[b] delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. ²⁴ God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it. ²⁵ For David says concerning him,

"I saw the Lord always before me,
for he is at my right hand that I may not be shaken;
²⁶ therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced;
my flesh also will dwell in hope.

²⁷ For you will not abandon my soul to Hades,
or let your Holy One see corruption.

²⁸ You have made known to me the paths of life;
you will make me full of gladness with your presence.'

²⁹ "Brothers, I may say to you with confidence about the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. ³⁰ Being therefore a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would set one of his descendants on his throne, ³¹ he foresaw and spoke about the resurrection of the Christ, that he was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh see corruption. ³² This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses. ³³

Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this that you yourselves are seeing and hearing. ³⁴ For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he himself says,

“The Lord said to my Lord,

“Sit at my right hand,

³⁵ until I make your enemies your footstool.”

³⁶ Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.”

³⁷ Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?” ³⁸ And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.” ⁴⁰ And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, “Save yourselves from this crooked generation.” ⁴¹ So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.

Through learning about Peter's life, we can truly see the power of Faith, Repentance and being Transformed. Though He made mistakes, just like we do- Peter was able to inspire and reach souls for YAHUSHUA JESUS. No matter what mistakes you have made, you can be forgiven, you can be changed and that is because of YAHUSHUA (JESUS) who paid the price for us at Calvary.

Bible Study Questions:

1. What lessons can you take from this, to help apply to your life?
2. What can you relate with, Peter about?
3. Has there been a time in your life where you lost your focus on YAH, on YAHUSHUA? How did it affect you?
4. What things did you do to help you in your Faith and Trust in HIM?
5. What does Peter's response to JESUS (YAHUSHUA) call reveal about HIS character (Faith, impulsiveness, readiness etc?)
6. What is different about Peter's outlook or behavior after JESUS (YAHUSHUA) restores him?
7. What does restoration in the text teach about repentance?
8. Which "Peter Moment" feels most like you right now?, faith, fear, failure or restoration? Why?

9. Through Peter's Life we can truly see the ? P_____ of F_____ Repentance and being T_____.
10. After Peters Message, during pentecost, how many people were baptized?
11. What things did he learn during the time when he was a fisherman? How did it help prepare him for his ministry work?
12. How does YAHUSHUA (JESUS), help restore him?
13. I think what we can see, in Peters life, is themes of F_____, f_____, but also restoration and redemption.

Assignments:

1. Read and summarize key themes from 1 and 2 Peter. Focus on how his experiences influenced his teachings on perseverance and suffering.
2. Testimony Sharing: Share a personal story, of growth and transformation in your faith with someone, and draw parallels to Peters Journey.
3. Prayer Focus: Ask for strength to embrace personal growth and to learn from failures, just as Peter did.

