Learning From Peter's Failures

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INTRODUCTION

- Would you say you more closely identify with Paul or with Peter?
- I think most of us would say Peter. We feel more of a kinship with him in our struggles and troubles than the Apostle Paul.

1 Peter Sinks

Matthew 14:30

- I simply label this incident Peter sinks.
- Lord bid me to come to you on the water. I mean, that's a pretty bold thing.
- But seeing the wind, he became afraid. And he began to sink. And he cried out saying, Lord, save me.
- When Peter found himself in such a great crisis, he did the thing that we should all do. And that's turn to the one who can save us.

2 Peter Denies the Lord

Mark 14:27–31; John 18

- It wasn't just him saying that. And while the others did not deny the Lord three times, they did all forsake him and flee in the garden.
- But I prayed for you that your faith fail not. And when once you have turned again, strengthen your brothers.
- The Lord turned and looked at Peter. And Peter went out and he wept bitterly.

3 Peter's Prejudice Over the Gentiles

Acts 11:1–18; Galatians 2

- Peter's prejudice over the Gentiles. When Paul has to withstand Peter to the face.
- He is now shunning Gentiles and not wanting to be associated with them because he feared the Jews.
- It's one thing to not know any better and to do foolishly. It's another thing to know better and to stumble.
- What impresses me most about that is that he didn't protect his image at all costs.

4 Failed Where He Had Encountered Success

Numbers 12:3; Exodus 32; Hebrews 12:2

- Number one, Peter failed in precisely the same areas where he had encountered success.
- He was the meekest man or the humblest man of all the earth.

- Here this humble man in this instance failed to be humble. And did not give God the glory.
- He takes his eyes off Jesus, which is when we get into trouble spiritually.

5 The Problem of Fear

1 John 3:3

- Faith can so easily fall victim to fear.
- It's when we take our eyes off Jesus that we are susceptible to fear.
- We far too often fear what other people are going to think about us.
- When you put your spiritual self at risk, that's the self-preservation you need to be most concerned about.
- We need to learn to hold on to spiritual life more than physical life.

6 The Distance Between the Highs and the Lows

1 Corinthians 10:12–13; 1 Corinthians 13

- If Peter's stories don't tell us anything else, they say that the time between the highs and the lows may not be very far apart.
- Let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.
- At the moment we think we've arrived spiritually, we've got it all figured out, we're making giant strides spiritually. The falling may not be very far away.
- The distance between humility and pride can be a very short distance.

THE CHALLENGE

Make sure our hearts are ready. Is your heart ready? We admonish you to prepare your heart.

MY NOTES