

A MAN CALLED "STONE"
John 1:40-43

Introduction:

1. Our Lord chose common men to be His apostles.
 - a. He did not choose Pharisees or Sadducees.
 - b. He did not choose priests or scribes.
 - c. He chose fishermen and tax collectors.
2. Peter was the most colorful of Jesus' original twelve apostles.
 - a. Simon was his given name.
 - b. Jesus gave him the nickname of "Cephas" (Aramaic) or "Peter" (Greek).
 - c. The name means "a small stone."
3. Peter's brother, Andrew, first brought him to the Lord.
4. Most of us can relate better to Peter than to Paul.
 - a. Peter had great love, zeal, conviction and enthusiasm.
 - b. He often fell short of living up to his ideals.

Discussion:

- I. PETER WAS A FISHERMAN BY TRADE.
 - A. He was a Galilean (Luke 22:59).
 1. He was in a fishing partnership with Andrew, James, John and Zebedee (Matt. 4:18-22; Luke 5:9, 10).
 2. He was a married man with a house in Capernaum (Mark 1:29,30).
 - B. The Lord's presence made Peter conscious of his sinfulness (Luke 5:1-8).
 1. Peter lied to save his neck (Matt. 26:69-75).
 2. He also cursed and swore.
 - C. Peter was in the "inner circle" of the apostles (Luke 8:51; Matt. 17:1; 26:37).
- II. PETER WAS IMPULSIVE BY NATURE.
 - A. He walked on the water until he took his eye off the Lord (Matt. 14:22-31).
 - B. He wanted to build three tabernacles on the Mount of Transfiguration (Matt. 17:1-8).

C. He rebuked the Lord for speaking of His death (Matt. 16:21-23).

III. PETER DENIED THE LORD.

A. He vowed he would never deny the Lord (Matt. 26:31-35).

B. He was the only one who defended the Lord (John 18:10,11).

C. He denied the Lord three times (Luke 22:54-62).

D. Peter made three mistakes which led to His denial of Jesus:

1. He disregarded warning (1 Cor. 10:12).
2. He followed "at a distance" (Mark 14:54).
3. He sat down with the wrong crowd (1 Cor. 15:33).

E. Peter did not let a shameful mistake keep him from following Christ.

F. The Lord led Peter to confess Him three times after His resurrection (John 21:15-17).

IV. PETER BOLDLY PREACHED CHRIST.

A. He preached the Christ to those who had crucified Him (Acts 2).

1. Peter preached boldly in the temple (Acts 3).
2. He boldly stood up to the rulers of the Jews (Acts 4:5-20).

B. Only once did Peter have a relapse (Gal. 2:11-19).

1. He gave in to the Judaizers.
2. He was rebuked by Paul.
3. He never wavered after this (Acts 15:6-11).
4. He never held a grudge against Paul (2 Pet. 3:15).

V. PETER WAS NOT A POPE.

A. The pope cannot marry, but Peter was a married man (Mark 1:30; 1 Cor. 9:5; 1 Pet. 5:1; 1 Tim. 3:2).

B. The pope is supposed to be infallible in his pronouncements, but Peter made many mistakes.

C. The pope demands homage but Peter refused it (Acts 10:25,26).

D. Peter was not the rock upon which the church is built (Matt. 16:13-19).

1. Two different Greek words are used for "rock."
 - a. "Petra" is a mass of rock, a ledge, an escarpment.

