

Peter's Journal – Last Entry 7

A Series on the Parallels of Peter's Life to Ours

Foreword

As we draw this series to a close, I would like to reiterate that the entries and concepts were not presented from an actual journal, they are from the Gospel of Luke.

Why Luke?

Mark's gospel is the first gospel written, there were no other gospels to pull details from, thus, it is the first account of Jesus and Peter's life with Him. Why Luke?

Most people would be surprised to know that nearly all Bible scholars believe Peter is the author of Mark's gospel and Mark was his scribe. Then why Luke?

Most people don't realize that, despite Mark not being one of the 12 disciples to witness miracles and be privy to personal conversations, he was in close partnership with Peter later on, and his gospel was likely Peter's dictation to him. Then why Luke?

Most people don't recall that in his first epistle, Peter called Mark his son.

1 Peter 5:13 She who is in Babylon, chosen together with you, sends you her greetings, and so does my son Mark."

Why Luke? Luke was not one of the 12 Disciples. The reason we used Luke for a source for Peter's Journal is because a side by side comparison of all the gospels shows **Luke's gospel** to be **the only chronological gospel and the most thorough, by far**. His own description of his research process shows us why. *Luke 1:1-4*

1. **Glean from previous gospel writers.** Mark wrote the first gospel; Luke copied 350 verses from Mark. Matthew wrote the next gospel, and John's followed Luke's.

Luke 1:1 Forasmuch as many have taken in hand to set forth in order a declaration of those things which are most surely believed among us,

2. **Pull information from direct contacts and eyewitnesses of Jesus.** This excludes Mark. But Mark did have direct contact with Peter who had direct contact with Jesus. It is believed that the only way Luke could have known the details of John the Baptist's birth, Jesus' birth and childhood, and Mary's song was from a personal interview of Mary.

Luke 1:2 Even as they delivered them unto us, which from the beginning were eyewitnesses, and ministers of the word (of Jesus);

3. Compose information chronologically, not thematically as in the other gospels.

Luke 1:3-4 It seemed good to me also, having had perfect understanding of all things from the very first, to write unto thee in order, most excellent Theophilus, 4 That thou mightest know the certainty of those things, wherein thou hast been instructed.

The Disciples Graduate to Apostles

Luke 6:12-13 And it came to pass in those days, that he went out into a mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God. 13 And when it was day, he called unto him his disciples: and of them he chose twelve, whom also he named apostles;

Peter's Entry

Jesus disappeared into a mountain and was gone all night. When He came to us this morning He shocked us with news we couldn't believe. He said He had been talking with His Father in heaven all night and received the names of twelve of us who would now be called His apostles. One of them was me. We are now no longer learners, we are ambassadors for Jesus.

Notice from Luke 6:13 that there is a group of disciples from which Jesus chose twelve to be apostles. Acts 1:15, 21-22 tells us the number of that core group was 132. When the twelve were selected out, 120 remained. These had followed Jesus since His baptism, and would follow Him until He ascended into heaven. From that group another apostle would be chosen to replace Judas. It took a partnership between the Apostles and God to find that man.

Two men were first approved by the eleven Apostles based on their good reputation and spirituality. Then they asked God to choose between those two. Matthias was chosen to be the new twelfth Apostle to proclaim the resurrection of the Son of God.

Afterword

Peter would go on for three years with Jesus. He would have times of great joy and feel so powerful for God. He would also have times of great embarrassment and weakness. When he was at his lowest and overwhelmed with shame and self-loathing, why did he return to the gathering of his brethren? Why did they all come back together? Could it have had something to do with that day when Jesus called them

Apostles, ambassadors on His behalf. While surely none of them felt worthy of that title, perhaps they realized they didn't ask for it, Jesus gave it to them and only Jesus can take it away. One of the last and most beautiful moments between Peter and Jesus might have been recorded something like this...

Jesus counted on me for so much and I let him down. I'm not worthy to be His Apostle...to represent Him. I don't know how to be an Apostle anyway. I was ready to return to the simple life of doing what I know best, fishing for fish. But today, by the fire on the shore of Galilee, Jesus took me aside for a walk.

I knew it was coming, what I did couldn't be swept under a rug. But I wanted to run anyway. I wanted to shout my inadequacy to Jesus before He could point it out. But something inside me knew...He's not that way; He loves us.

As we walked Jesus broke the silence between us in a way that took me back. He called me Simon instead of Peter. It's like He was talking to the old me instead of the me He wants me to be. That's ok...I need to listen to Him like my old name says, the only rock in me is the one sitting on my shoulders.

Then out of the blue, Jesus asked me if I loved Him. Somehow, I never expected that to be a part of our conversation. I could see disappointment or demotion. I could see Him asking how I could deny Him. And truthfully, I wouldn't know how to respond to any of that. Then He floors me with the one positive thing I have left to give Him. I answered Him with a hesitance that I'm sure He picked up on, "Yes". Then, as if nothing happened between us, Jesus went right to, "Then feed my lambs, feed my sheep."

My confusion was tripled when He repeated the same twice more. It was like the past never happened. It was like He was just interested in going forward. It seemed like He wasn't interested in condemnation or judgment. He just wanted to know if I still loved Him, as if loving Him was all that mattered. It felt like He was ignoring what I had done. I wanted to ask Him how could I return to serving you, representing you, after what I've done! But I guess He would have reminded me He knew it was going to happen and that's why He prayed for me.

I kind of wanted Him to be angry with me, to make me feel I've been punished so I can just run away and move on. But His love, I can't run from His love. It felt like He was forgiving and forgetting and restoring all in one. His love is a love that will not let me go. It replaces the fear I have of not knowing myself or being able to predict myself. It seems like if I ever mess up again, He will just ask, "Do you still love me?", and as long as I can answer yes, He will say, "Then let's move on and get back to work."

There's always hope in His love.