



GOD'S PEOPLE AND THE TRIALS OF LIFE

"THE TRIAL OF PETER"

JOHN 1:42; I PETER 1:7

THE TRIAL OF PETER IS THE STORY OF HOW JESUS CAN TRANSFORM A MAN OF CLAY INTO A ROCK. PETER IS ONE OF THE APOSTLES ABOUT WHOM WE KNOW THE MOST. HE SPOKE MORE, ASKED MORE QUESTIONS, AND UTTERED MORE EXCLAMATIONS THAN ALL THE OTHERS; AND ALSO, MORE THAN THE OTHERS, HE WAS REPRIMANDED, INSTRUCTED, WARNED, AND BLESSED BY CHRIST.

THE FIRST TRIAL(LUKE 5: 1-11)

IN PETER'S FIRST ENCOUNTER WITH CHRIST, HE OBEYS JESUS'S COMMAND TO GO OUT INTO THE DEEP WATER AND LET DOWN HIS NETS. THE LARGE HAUL OF FISH RESULTED IN PETER CONFESSING THAT HE WAS A SINFUL MAN. LIKE PETER, THE FIRST FACT OF OUR CHRISTIAN EXPERIENCE SHOULD BE TO ACKNOWLEDGE THAT WE ARE SINNERS.

THE SECOND TRIAL (MARK 8: 27-30)

WHEN OTHERS WERE UNCERTAIN, PETER WAS SURE THAT JESUS WAS THE MESSIAH, AND CONFESSED HIM TO BE SO. PETER'S WORDS AND CONVICTIONS CONSTITUTED A ROCK UPON WHICH CHRISTIAN FAITH WAS TO BE BUILT.

ARE WE ALLOWING GOD TO WORK IN OUR HEARTS SO THAT HE CAN REVEAL ETERNAL TRUTHS TO US, LIKE PETER DID AT THIS POINT IN HIS LIFE?

THE THIRD TRIAL (JOHN 6: 66-69)

WHEN JESUS MADE CLEAR THE DIFFICULT TERMS OF DISCIPLESHIP, JOHN TELLS US THAT MANY OF THE DISCIPLES WENT BACK AND DID NOT FOLLOW HIM ANY LONGER. AT THAT POINT, JESUS TURNED TO THE TWELVE AND SAID, "WILL YE ALSO GO AWAY?" THEN PETER GAVE HIS GREAT ANSWER, "LORD, TO WHOM SHALL WE GO? THOU HAST THE WORDS OF ETERNAL LIFE!"

HOW INDISPENSABLE TO YOU IS CHRIST?

THE FOURTH TRIAL (MATT. 14: 22-23)

WHILE JESUS WAS WALKING ON THE STORM-TOSSED WATERS OF THE SEA OF GALILEE, PETER STEPPED OUT ON FAITH AND WALKED ON THE WATER A SHORT DISTANCE BEFORE TAKING HIS EYES OFF JESUS AND FALLING. WE, ALSO, BEGIN TO SINK IN TROUBLED WATERS WHEN WE TAKE OUR EYES OFF JESUS.

THE FIFTH TRIAL (LUKE 22: 54-62)

WHEN JESUS WAS ARRESTED, PETER DENIED KNOWING HIM; BUT WHEN JESUS WAS BROUGHT OUT HE LOOKED AT PETER WITH A LOOK OF LOVE, AND PETER WEPT AT HIS SIN. HIS COURAGE HAD FAILED HIM, BUT HIS FAITH HAD NOT. WHAT ABOUT US?

LIKE PETER, WE ARE ALL ON TRIAL. WE MAY FALTER AND SOMETIMES FALL, BUT IF THE LOVE OF CHRIST IS IN OUR HEARTS, WE WILL FOREVER STAY CLOSE TO GOD.

Presented by Dr. Jimmy Hilton

**SOUTH POINT
BAPTIST CHURCH**

Finding God's Direction for Life

