



What Can We Learn From Peter? (Part 2)

Matthew 4:19: (KJV) ¹⁹*And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.* ²⁰*And they straightway left their nets, and followed him.*



A few weeks ago on May 20th, we discussed Part 1 of our conversation about the Apostle Peter. We covered his life from his being introduced in the Scriptures as a typical fisherman from Galilee, up to his proclamation that Jesus was the Messiah and his angst at Jesus saying that he, Jesus, would have to die. These three things typify the life of Peter: a regular guy of no singular background, impetuous - willing to speak up when others would not, and often getting into some kind of trouble for things he said or did. Stay with us as we look further into this utterly fascinating life of a man who would become one of Christianity's greatest leaders.

Let's jump ahead in Peter's life to one of his most dramatic defining moments - the night before the crucifixion.

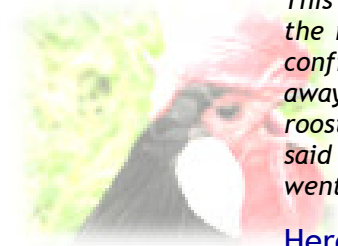
Jesus taken to be questioned by the High Priest:

Mark 14:53-55: (ASV) ⁵³*And they led Jesus away to the high priest: and there come together with him all the chief priests and the elders and the scribes.* ⁵⁴*And Peter had followed him afar off, even within, into the court of the high priest; and he was sitting with the officers, and warming himself in the light of the fire.* ⁵⁵*Now the chief priests and the whole council sought witness against Jesus to put him to death; and found it not.*

Remember, Peter had just cut off the ear of Malchus in defense of Jesus.

The following account occurred after the assembling of false witnesses against Jesus and his being proclaimed a blasphemer. How did Peter sink so low as to deny Jesus even once, let alone three times?

Matthew 26:67-74: (with details from Luke 22 as indicated) (NASB) ⁶⁷*Then they spat in his face and beat Him with their fists; and others slapped him,* ⁶⁸*and said, Prophecy to us, you Christ; who is the one who hit you?* ⁶⁹*Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard, (Luke 22:56)* ⁵⁶*And a certain maid seeing him as he sat in the light of the fire, and looking steadfastly upon him, said, This man also was with him.* ⁷⁰*But he denied it before them all, saying, I do not know what you are talking about. (Luke 22:58)* ⁵⁸*And after a little* ⁷¹*When he had gone out to the gateway, another servant-girl saw him and said to those who were there, This man was with Jesus of Nazareth.* ⁷²*And again he denied it with an oath, I do not know the man. (Luke 22:59)* ⁵⁹*And after the space of about one hour the bystanders came up and confidently affirmed, Surely you too are one of them; for even the way you talk gives you away.* ⁷⁴*Then he began to curse and swear, I do not know the man! And immediately a rooster crowed while he yet spake. And Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how that he said unto him, Before the cock crow this day thou shalt deny me thrice. (Luke 22:62)* ⁶²*And he went out, and wept bitterly.*



Here in many ways ends the first part of Peter's life. He would not see Jesus again before Jesus was to suffer and die alone, having been abandoned by his closest friends - especially by Simon Peter, "the rock." Peter was the outspoken one who not only abandoned him, but denied that he even knew him three times. How did Peter get here?! How did he go from being so faithful, firm and favored to being so careless, cowardly and crude?!



Visions, Taxes and Forgiveness...

Very shortly after Peter reveals that Jesus is the Messiah and Jesus rebukes Peter for his opposition to the coming suffering of Christ, Jesus takes Peter, James and John to a special place...

The Transfiguration: Matthew 17:1-13: (NRSV) Mark 9:2-13: (NRSV) and Luke 9:28-36: (NRSV)

Matthew 17:1: (NRSV) *Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. (One of many times when these three were singled out for special experience and insight.)*

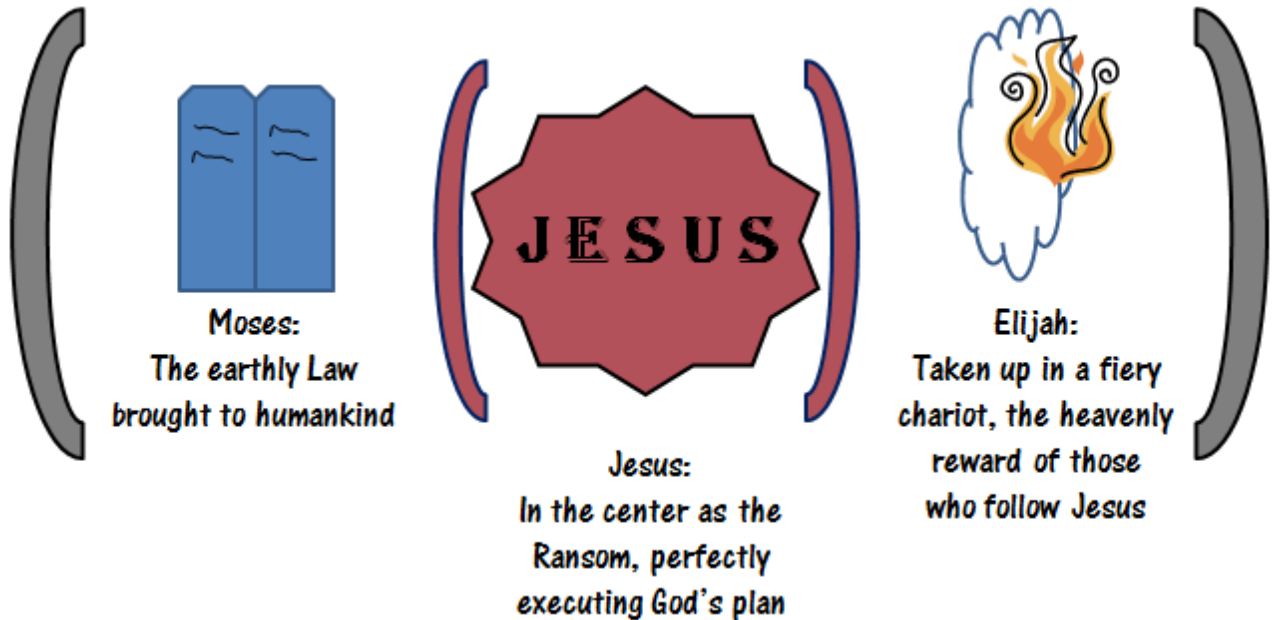
Peter, James and John, *Life of the Apostle Peter, Mosaic Television*

- *He's part of an inner threesome of the twelve apostles that seem to have a special close relationship with Jesus - Peter, James, and John.*
- *We find that in three scenes in the Gospel of Mark when Jesus raises the daughter of Jarius, Peter, James and John are there. When he goes to the Mount of Transfiguration, Peter, James and John accompany him, and when he prays in the Garden of Gethsemene, Peter, James and John are especially mentioned there.*
- *Who do you want with you at times like that? Sacred moments, revelatory moments, agonizing moments...you want your closest companions.*

Luke 9:29: *And while he was praying, Mark 9:2-4: he was transfigured before them,³ and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them.⁴ And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Luke 9:31: They appeared in glory and were speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. Mark 9:5-6:⁵ Then Peter said to Jesus, Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah. ⁶ He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. Matthew 17:5-13:⁵ While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him! ⁶ When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. ⁷ But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Get up and do not be afraid. ⁸ And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone. ⁹ As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead. ¹⁰ So they kept the matter to themselves, questioning what this rising from the dead could mean. ¹¹ He replied, Elijah is indeed coming and will restore all things; How then is it written about the Son of Man, that he is to go through many sufferings and be treated with contempt? ¹² but I tell you that Elijah has already come, and they did not recognize him, but they did to him whatever they pleased. ¹³ Then the disciples understood that he was speaking to them about John the Baptist.*



What did this vision picture? It was a dramatic message.



A lesson At Peter's house regarding payment of the Temple tax:

Matthew 17:24-27: (ASV) ²⁴And when they were come to Capernaum, they that received the half-shekel came to Peter, and said, Doth not your teacher pay the half-shekel? ²⁵He saith, Yea. And when he came into the house, Jesus spake first to him, saying, What thinkest thou, Simon? the kings of the earth, from whom do they receive toll or tribute? from their sons, or from strangers? ²⁶And when he said, From strangers, Jesus said unto him, Therefore the sons are free. ²⁷But, lest we cause them to stumble, go thou to the sea, and cast a hook, and take up the fish that first cometh up; and when thou hast opened his mouth, thou shalt find a shekel: that take, and give unto them for me and thee.

Peter's lesson was: For the people's sake, comply with the laws of the land even if you are above them.

Jesus' lesson to Peter on forgiveness:

Matthew 18:21-22: (ASV) ²¹Then came Peter and said to him, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? until seven times? ²²Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, Until seven times; but, Until seventy times seven.

Peter's lesson was: This is what Christianity is supposed to be about - we live by a higher standard and be forgiving in our attitude.

How would Jesus prepare his followers for his apparently untimely end?

Peter was there for all of these event that we don't have time to review. Shouldn't these all have been enough to get Peter's mind and heart solidified?

- The raising of Lazarus
- The plot against Lazarus
- The triumphal entry into Jerusalem
- Jesus weeps over Jerusalem
- The cleansing of the Temple
- The withering of the fig tree



- The woes to the Scribes and Pharisees
- Jesus' lament over Jerusalem
- Jesus great prophecy of his own return
- The anointing at Bethany

Preparation for the Passover:

Luke 22:8-15: (ASV) ⁸And he sent Peter and John, saying, Go and make ready for us the Passover, that we may eat. ⁹And they said unto him, Where wilt thou that we make ready? ¹⁰And he said unto them, Behold, when ye are entered into the city, there shall meet you a man bearing a pitcher of water; follow him into the house whereinto he goeth. ¹¹And ye shall say unto the master of the house, The Teacher saith unto thee, Where is the guestchamber, where I shall eat the passover with my disciples? ¹²And he will show you a large upper room furnished: there make ready.

Washing the Apostles' feet:

John 13:3-16: (ASV) ³Jesus...⁴riseth from supper, and layeth aside his garments; and he took a towel, and girded himself. ⁵Then he poureth water into the basin, and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel wherewith he was girded. (Doing the job of the lowest servant) ⁶So he cometh to Simon Peter. He saith unto him, Lord, dost thou wash my feet? ⁷Jesus answered and said unto him, What I do thou knowest not now; but thou shalt understand hereafter. ⁸Peter saith unto him, Thou shalt never wash my feet. Jesus answered him, If I wash thee not, thou hast no part with me. ⁹Simon Peter saith unto him, Lord, not my feet only, but also my hands and my head. ¹⁰Jesus saith to him, He that is bathed needeth not save to wash his feet, but is clean every whit: and ye are clean, but not all. Peter - being Peter - hears what Jesus says and jumps in with both feet! ...¹²So when he had washed their feet, and taken his garments, and sat down again, he said unto them, Know ye what I have done to you? ¹³Ye call me, Teacher, and, Lord: and ye say well; for so I am. ¹⁴If I then, the Lord and the Teacher, have washed your feet, ye also ought to wash one another's feet. ¹⁵For I have given you an example, that ye also should do as I have done to you. ¹⁶Verily, verily, I say unto you, a servant is not greater than his lord; neither one that is sent greater than he that sent him.

Jesus tells them, do as I say AND do as I do! This was hours before the Gethsemane experience. Jesus is trying to build them up but yet they still end up faltering.

The Last Supper: Peter's denial predicted:

Matthew 26:31-35: (ASV) ³¹Then saith Jesus unto them, All ye shall be offended in me this night: for it is written, I will smite the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock shall be scattered abroad. ³²But after I am raised up, I will go before you into Galilee. ³³But Peter answered and said unto him, If all shall be offended in thee, I will never be offended. ³⁴Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, that this night, before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice. ³⁵Peter saith unto him, Even if I must die with thee, yet will I not deny thee. Likewise also said all the disciples.

Peter (again being Peter!) is sure of his faith because he is sure of Jesus and too sure of himself!

Peter next would have heard the encouraging words from Jesus recorded in **John 14-17** in preparation for what was the difficult times to come.

Gethsemane:

Mark 14:32-42: (NRSV) ³²They went to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, Sit here while I pray. ³³He took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be distressed and agitated. ³⁴And he said to them, I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and keep awake. What would have been going through Peter's mind? ³⁵And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might



pass from him. ³⁶He said, Abba, Father, for you all things are possible; remove this cup from me; yet, not what I want, but what you want. ³⁷He came and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, Simon, are you asleep? Could you not keep awake one hour? ³⁸Keep awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak. Again, Peter is specifically singled out and warned! ³⁹And again he went away and prayed, saying the same words. ⁴⁰And once more he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were very heavy; and they did not know what to say to him. ⁴¹He came a third time and said to them, Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? Enough! The hour has come; the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. ⁴²Get up, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand. ...and now the storm begins to erupt...

Jesus arrested:

Luke 22:47-49: (NASB) ⁴⁷While he was still speaking, behold, a crowd came, and the one called Judas, one of the twelve, was preceding them; and he approached Jesus to kiss him. ⁴⁸But Jesus said to him, Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?

Imagine the Apostles' shock of their former friend and confidant showing up with armed forces!

⁴⁹When those who were around him saw what was going to happen, they said, Lord, shall we strike with the sword? ⁵⁰And one of them struck the slave of the high priest and cut off his right ear.

John 18:10-11: (NASB) ¹⁰Simon Peter then, having a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's slave, and cut off his right ear; and the slave's name was Malchus. ¹¹So Jesus said to Peter, Put the sword into the sheath; the cup which the Father has given me, shall I not drink it? Luke 22:51-53: ⁵¹... And he touched his ear and healed him. So, Peter leaps into action, only to be told to stand down and have his aggression reversed by healing. ⁵²Then Jesus said to the chief priests and officers of the temple and elders who had come against him, Have you come out with swords and clubs as you would against a robber? ⁵³While I was with you daily in the temple, you did not lay hands on me; but this hour and the power of darkness are yours. ...and Jesus goes willingly - and alone.

So with all this commotion, how does Peter do? How would YOU do?

Let's take a closer look at Peter's denial:

Matthew 26:67-74: (with details from Luke 22 as indicated) (NASB) ⁶⁷Then they spat in his face and beat Him with their fists; and others slapped him, ⁶⁸and said, Prophecy to us, you Christ; who is the one who hit you? ⁶⁹Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard, (Luke 22:56) ⁵⁶And a certain maid seeing him as he sat in the light of the fire, and looking steadfastly upon him, said, This man also was with him. ⁷⁰But he denied it before them all, saying, I do not know what you are talking about. (Luke 22:58) ⁵⁸And after a little ⁷¹When he had gone out to the gateway, another servant-girl saw him and said to those who were there, This man was with Jesus of Nazareth. ⁷²And again he denied it with an oath, I do not know the man. (Luke 22:59) ⁵⁹And after the space of about one hour the bystanders came up and confidently affirmed, Surely you too are one of them; for even the way you talk gives you away. ⁷⁴Then he began to curse and swear, I do not know the man! And immediately a rooster crowed while he yet spake. And Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how that he said unto him, Before the cock crow this day thou shalt deny me thrice. (Luke 22:62) ⁶²And he went out, and wept bitterly.

Denial #1: Public announcement to all that could hear.

Denial #2: Denies with an oath - an even stronger denial.

Denial #3: He curses and swears he "does not know the man!"



Jesus understood Peter, and God likewise understands our frailties:

Isaiah 42:3: (NASB) *A bruised reed He will not break and a dimly burning wick He will not extinguish; He will faithfully bring forth justice.*

Psalms 147:3: (NASB) *He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.*

The Resurrection:

Mark 16:1-8: (NRSV) ¹When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. ²And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. ³They had been saying to one another, Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb? ⁴When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. ⁵As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. ⁶But he said to them, Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. ⁷But go, tell his disciples **and Peter** that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you. ⁸So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

They were given specific and clear instructions:

John 20:2-10: (NRSV) ²So she (Mary Magdalene) ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him. **And they still get it all wrong even though an angel specifically explained this to them! Seems very symptomatic of the times and the drama!** ³Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. ⁴The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. ⁶Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, ⁷and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. ⁸Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; ⁹for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. ¹⁰Then the disciples returned to their homes.

Although John beat him to the tomb, it appears that out of respect he has Peter go in first. Peter again shows his deep love for the Lord in spite of his shortcomings. He had so much passion in spite of all his faults! Jesus was able to see through his faults, as he is able to do for us as well.



“Walk on the Water,” (chorus) Britt Nicole

So what are you waiting for?
What do you have to lose?
Your insecurities try to alter you

You know you're made for more
So don't be afraid to move
Your faith is all
It takes and you can
Walk on the water too



Jesus is willing to forgive. Was Peter - and are we - willing to be forgiven?

Throughout the forty days after Jesus’ resurrection, he appeared to the disciples many times. We know that Peter would have had many opportunities to see Jesus and these would certainly have served to heal Peter’s self inflicted wounds of denial. However, the greatest healing would come from the following appearance (Jesus’ third to the disciples) on the Sea of Galilee:

John 21:3-19: (NRSV) (selected verses) ³Simon Peter said to them, I am going fishing. They said to him, We will go with you. They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

Simon Peter again leads the way, but this time it was back to their life before Jesus.

⁴Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach; but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. ⁵Jesus said to them, Children, you have no fish, have you? They answered him, No. ⁶He said to them, Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some. So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish. ⁷That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, It is the Lord! When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on some clothes, for he was naked, and jumped into the sea.

Simon is again unable to contain himself and he jumps into the sea to greet Jesus! So, they all came to shore and were gathered around Jesus.

John 21:15: (NRSV) When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you **love <agape>** me more than these?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I **love <phileo>** you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my lambs.”



The Question: Do you “agape” love me?
The Answer: You know that I “phileo” love you...
The Mission: “Feed my lambs.” (the young, the beginners in the way needing the “milk of the word”)



Peter thus states his personal attachment and devotion to the Lord, but refrains from claiming the highest love for which our Lord inquired. This humility was an excellent sign, showing Peter had learned a needed lesson and had ceased to boast and feared his own weakness.

This mission would only be given to one who is trusted, one who has been given a new name (from Simon to Peter).

John 21:16: (NRSV) A second time he said to him, “Simon son of John, do you **love <agape>** me?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I **love <phileo>** you.” Jesus said to him, “Tend my sheep.”



The Question: Do you “agape” love me?
The Answer: You know that I “phileo” love you...
The Mission: “Tend my sheep.” (the more mature followers who need guidance and direction)



This mission would only be given to one who is trusted, one who has taken on a new vocation and direction.



John 21:17-19: (NRSV)¹⁷He said to him the third time, “Simon son of John, do you **love <agape>** me?” Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, “Do you **love <agape>** me?” And he said to him, “Lord, you know everything; you know that I **love <phileo>** you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my sheep.”¹⁸Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go.”¹⁹(He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, “Follow me.”



The Question: Do you “agape” love me?
The Answer: You know everything, you know that I “phileo” love you...(Peter knows he can’t go beyond where he is.)
The Mission: “Feed my sheep.” (the weak sheep, weak in faith who are to be fed and cared for.)



This mission would only be given to one who could understand weakness and give what is necessary to overcome it. Peter would not make a confession he was not yet capable of, but Jesus was willing to work with him. (Note that Jesus asked him three times - just as Peter had denied him three times. Peter was also drawn to the Lord at three different times.)

**What can we learn from Peter?
For Jonathan and Rick and Christian Questions...
Think about it...!**

**And now even more to think about...
only in the Full Edition of CQ Rewind!**





An interesting view on the Apostle Peter's denial of Jesus and Jesus' reinstatement of Peter after his resurrection in light of an Old Testament text:

The Denial:

Matthew 26:67-74: (with details from Luke 22 as indicated) (NASB) ⁶⁷Then they spat in his face and beat Him with their fists; and others slapped him, ⁶⁸and said, Prophecy to us, you Christ; who is the one who hit you? ⁶⁹Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard, ([Luke 22:56](#)) ⁵⁶And a certain maid seeing him as he sat in the light of the fire, and looking steadfastly upon him, said, This man also was with him. ⁷⁰**But he denied it before them all, saying, I do not know what you are talking about.** ([Luke 22:58](#)) ⁵⁸And after a little ⁷¹When he had gone out to the gateway, another servant-girl saw him and said to those who were there, This man was with Jesus of Nazareth. ⁷²And again **he denied it with an oath, I do not know the man.** ([Luke 22:59](#)) ⁵⁹And after the space of about one hour the bystanders came up and confidently affirmed, Surely you too are one of them; for even the way you talk gives you away. ⁷⁴**Then he began to curse and swear, I do not know the man!** And immediately a rooster crowed while he yet spake. And Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how that he said unto him, Before the cock crow this day thou shalt deny me thrice. ([Luke 22:62](#)) ⁶²And he went out, and wept bitterly.

The Reinstatement:

John 21:14-19: (NRSV)¹⁴This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from the dead. ¹⁵When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, Simon son of John, do you love me more than these? He said to him, Yes, Lord; you know that I love you. Jesus said to him, Feed my lambs. ¹⁶A second time he said to him, Simon son of John, do you love me? He said to him, Yes, Lord; you know that I love you. Jesus said to him, Tend my sheep. ¹⁷He said to him the third time, Simon son of John, do you love me? Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, Do you love me And he said to him, Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you. Jesus said to him, Feed my sheep. ¹⁸Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go. ¹⁹(He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, Follow me.

The Psalm:

Psalms 1:1-3: (NASB) ¹How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, nor stand in the path of sinners, nor sit in the seat of scoffers! ²But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and in His law he meditates day and night. ³He will be like a tree firmly planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in its season and its leaf does not wither; and in whatever he does, he prospers.



<p>⁶⁹Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard, (Luke 22:56) ⁵⁶And a certain maid seeing him as he sat in the light of the fire, and looking steadfastly upon him, said, This man also was with him. ⁷⁰But he denied it before them all, saying, I do not know what you are talking about.</p>		<p>Psalms 1:1: (NASB) <i>How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked...</i></p>
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To deny before all indicates being in a position of heeding the voices around you...

<p>(Luke 22:58) ⁵⁸And after a little ⁷¹When he had gone out to the gateway, another servant-girl saw him and said to those who were there, This man was with Jesus of Nazareth. ⁷²And again he denied it with an oath, I do not know the man.</p>		<p>Psalms 1:1: <i>...nor stand in the path of sinners</i></p>
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To deny with an oath indicates being committed to a particular path...

<p>(Luke 22:59) ⁵⁹And after the space of about one hour the bystanders came up and confidently affirmed, Surely you too are one of them; for even the way you talk gives you away. ⁷⁴Then he began to curse and swear, I do not know the man! And immediately a rooster crowed while he yet spake.</p>		<p>Psalms 1:1: <i>...nor sit in the seat of scoffers!</i></p>
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To deny with cursing indicates an attitude of carelessness associated with those who would scoff...



Now to the other side of the matter - recovering a good standing with the Lord:

		<p><u>Psalms 1:2</u>: (NASB) <i>But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and in His law he meditates day and night.</i></p>
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This second verse describes what a spiritually sound leader looks like.
Psalms 1:3 delves into the application of that spirituality...

	<p>¹⁵<i>When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, Simon son of John, do you love me more than these? He said to him, Yes, Lord; you know that I love you. Jesus said to him, Feed my lambs.</i></p>	<p><u>Psalms 1:3</u>: (NASB) <i>He will be like a tree firmly planted by streams of water,</i></p>
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To feed those who cannot fend for themselves requires being firmly planted
in the source of all things spiritual yourself...

	<p>¹⁶<i>A second time he said to him, Simon son of John, do you love me? He said to him, Yes, Lord; you know that I love you. Jesus said to him, Tend my sheep.</i></p>	<p><u>Psalms 1:3</u>: (NASB) <i>...which yields its fruit in its season</i></p>
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To be able to care for those who are youthful and growing comes from
the experience of bearing fruit in one's own life...



¹⁷He said to him the third time, Simon son of John, do you love me? Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, Do you love me And he said to him, Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you. Jesus said to him, Feed my sheep.

Psalms 1:3: (NASB) *...and its leaf does not wither; and in whatever he does, he prospers.*

To feed those who are older and more mature requires a track record of spiritual longevity and spiritual strength and toughness...