

Scripture: Exodus 20:1-17 & John 21:15-21
Singing: 134:1, 3 – 321:1, 2 – 103:1-4 – 353:1-3 – 310:1, 2, 5

Introduction: *The Bible is a book of biographies of flawed saints*

A. These portraits are *for encouragement and warning*

B. All disciples of Jesus become disciple in same way

1. Begins with an act of God in our life (John 15:16)

2. God's Spirit enables one to **trust Jesus and obey Him**

a. starting point of discipleship is *saving faith in Jesus*

- such faith begins elementary (infancy)

- as faith in Jesus grows, so view of self changes

b. saving faith's best evidence is *life of obedience – following Jesus*

A GENUINE DISCIPLE DESPITE HUGE FAILURES

I. Peter's Discipleship II. Peter's Failures as Disciple

I. PETER'S DISCIPLESHIP

A. Peter is an obedient disciple of Jesus: Mark 1:17/Matt 19:27

1. This was a *radical call and astounding obedience*

a. they had to leave all to follow a 'carpenter turned rabbi'

2. Nature of discipleship today is *no different in spirit* as in Peter's day

a. hear Jesus call: Luke 14:25-27

- salvation is free, but discipleship is costly!

b. saving faith in Jesus *proves genuine in life of discipleship*

- Christianity is not a creed but a *new creature in Christ*

B. Becoming Jesus' disciple begins a *learning journey*

1. All begin as every new life begins: *infants – toddlers – children*

a. though a *living, healthy part of family, they are immature*

2. So it is in the *life of Christ's disciples*

a. we become disciples by faith (Matt. 28:19)

b. then we are disciples that need further teaching (Matt. 28:20)

II. Peter's failures as Jesus' disciple

A. Be prepared: to be a disciple of Jesus is a *difficult journey!*

1. The "new birth" makes us a *two-man!* (Romans 7:21-23)
 - a. to be a disciple is to experience a *constant tug of war*

 - b. reason 'new creature' grows is *resurrection power of Jesus*

 - c. trace Simon's change into Peter/Cephas

2. As Jesus knew how Peter needed His Master's hand, so He knows how we still need it

B. Peter's picture album as young disciple

1. Sputtering obedience (Luke 5:5; John 21:21!)
2. Arrogant rebuke of the Son of God! (Matt. 16:22)
3. Overconfident boasting (Luke 22:33 – John 13:37)
4. Stubbornness (John 13:8)
5. Impulsive (Matt. 14:28 & John 21:7)
6. Cowardly despite boastfulness (Matt. 26:69-74)
7. He still is immature (inquisitive) John 21:21

C. Why is pitiful portrait of Peter recorded?

1. As a *warning*
 - a. as a real, sincere disciple of Jesus, you are a *work in progress*

 - b. let this reality be an excuse for slothful discipleship

 - c. watch your strengths

2. As an *encouragement*
 - a. don't expect perfectionism in your life as disciple

 - b. don't expect other brethren to be different than yourself: Gal. 6:1

Closing Question: *What is a fair description of the Living Church of Jesus?*

Being confident of this very thing,
that He which hath begun a good work in you
will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ. Phil. 1:6