



## World Christian Fellowship

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### Apostles- Peter 02

#### Luke 6:12-16

**Luke 6:12-16**, *Now it came to pass in those days that He went out to the mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God.<sup>13</sup> And when it was day, He called His disciples to Himself; and from them He chose twelve whom He also named apostles:<sup>14</sup> Simon, whom He also named Peter, and Andrew his brother; James and John; Philip and Bartholomew;<sup>15</sup> Matthew and Thomas; James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon called the Zealot;<sup>16</sup> Judas the son of James, and Judas Iscariot who also became a traitor.*

#### **General observations:**

They were all common men.

All of them were from Galilee except for Judas, who was from a town called Kerioth in the south.

They were rural people from the part of the nation of Israel that did not really have much prestige or nobility.

- None of them was a Pharisee.
- None of them was a Sadducee.
- None of them was a priest.
- None of them was a scribe.
- None of them was any prominent person.

They were all very common men.

Four of them were fishermen, one was a tax collector, one was a terrorist, and one was a traitor.

There are four lists of the apostles in the New Testament.  
Matthew, Mark, Luke, and Acts.

**Matthew 10, Mark 3, Luke 6 and Acts 1.**

In these lists the names are always the same, so that we know exactly who these twelve were. But the names are not in identical order in the lists, with some exceptions.

The first name in all four lists is always Peter.

We have three groups of four.

- Group one,
- Group two, and
- Group three.

### **Group One:**

1. Simon called Peter,
2. Andrew,
3. James,
4. John.

Peter, James and John's names get mixed around in the list, Peter's is always first, but they are always in group one.

### **Group Two:**

1. Philip,
2. Bartholomew — or Nathanael,
3. Matthew,
4. Thomas.

Always group two in every list.

The names of Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew and Thomas get mixed, but Philip is always the first name of group two.

### **Group Three:**

1. James the son of Alphaeus,
2. Simon the Zealot,
3. Judas son of James,
4. Judas Iscariot.

Always the same in every list.

The names may be mixed a little bit, the two middle names, the names of Simon the Zealot and Judas the son of James get mixed.

James the son of Alphaeus is always the first name in group four and Judas is always the last name of the twelve.

### **What do we learn by that?**

The name at the top of the list is always Peter, who was the leader of everybody.

These groups of four are in decreasing intimacy from Christ. Group one always around Christ; Peter, James, John and Andrew, the most intimate group.

We also learn that there are leaders within the group.

- leader of group one, Peter.
- leader of group two, Philip.
- leader of group three, James the son of Alphaeus.

There are leaders among leaders and a leader over all of them, namely Peter.

## **Simon Peter.**

Peter learned through experience that God would speak through him, that he was not dependent upon a human message but that he would be given the message from God.

He learned through experience that God would use him for supernatural influence. He would be given the keys to the kingdom. Peter's life and message would have such an impact that he would be unlocking the kingdom of God so that men and women could go in.

He also learned by experience that he was humanly weak, and he could not trust his own resolve to trust his own strength and own determination.

## **Right character**

Character causes people to respect you,  
Respect causes people to trust you,  
Trust causes people to follow you.

Character makes leadership possible.  
It makes consistent leadership possible.

Where you have no character, you cannot really be the leader.

Human leadership:

"trustworthy, respectable, unselfish, humble, consistent, self-disciplined, self-controlled, courageous."

Those are virtues that society recognizes belong to real leaders, and certainly they reflect the *Imagio Deo*. (Image of God)

They reflect the image of God in man for all of those things are attributes of God and Christ.

- ✓ Christ is perfectly trustworthy,
- ✓ Christ is perfectly respectable,
- ✓ Christ is perfectly unselfish,
- ✓ Christ is perfectly humble,
- ✓ Christ is perfectly consistent,
- ✓ Christ is perfectly self-disciplined,
- ✓ Christ is perfectly self-controlled,
- ✓ Christ is perfectly courageous,
- ✓ Christ has the perfect integrity.

Purest, highest, and noblest attributes of mankind are simply reflections of the attributes of God demonstrated in Christ.

So, if one is to be a leader spiritually, then the objective is to bring people to Christlikeness. In order to bring people to Christlikeness, one must therefore set an example for what those virtues are that is to manifest the same virtues that characterize Christ.

That is why the standard for leadership in the church is so high, whether you are reading about the standard for an elder or a deacon or any other leader in the church.

In 1 Timothy 6 spells about the characteristics of a man of God. The standards are high because the goal is high. The spiritual goal of all spiritual leadership is Christlikeness.

- Natural leadership is characterized by self-confidence.
- Spiritual leadership is characterized by confidence in God and no confidence in oneself.
  
- Natural leadership, we look for somebody who knows people.
- Spiritual leadership, we look for somebody who knows God.
  
- Natural leadership, we want somebody who makes his own decisions.
- Spiritual leadership, we want somebody who seeks to know the will of God.
  
- Natural leadership somebody who is ambitious, who is driven.
- Spiritual leadership somebody whose only desire in life is that God be glorified.

- ❖ Natural leadership we want somebody who originates his own plans and methods, an original thinker.
  - ❖ Spiritual leadership we want somebody who understands the Word of God and obeys it.
- Natural leadership we want somebody who enjoys commanding others.
  - Spiritual leadership we want somebody who enjoys, fill in the blank, serving others.
- Natural leadership we want somebody motivated by personal considerations, motivated by success.
  - Spiritual leadership, we want somebody motivated by the love of God.
- Natural leadership we want somebody who is independent.
  - Spiritual leadership we want somebody who is totally dependent on God.

We are not looking or studying about natural leadership. To be a leader for the Lord requires some natural raw material. Peter had that but there is a very serious work to do to shape that into spiritual leadership and it comes through experience and it comes through development of character.

Character is more critical in spiritual leadership than anywhere.

It is critical in spiritual leadership because the goal of all spiritual leadership is Christlikeness. If a leader who is going to move people toward being like Christ, then they must be able to show such an exemplary character.

*"The only thing that walks back from the tomb with the mourners and refuses to be buried is the character of a man. What a man survives him. It can never be buried."*

J.R Miller.

We should be concerned about what people think of you after you are dead. But we are also very much more concerned about what they think about us while we are alive.

God had plans for Peter. Peter wanted to be used by the Lord but lot of work to be done to make him into the man he needed to be, and that involved the development of the right character.

## **1. Submission**

A spiritual leader requires submission.

That is contrary to the world's definition:

A natural leader needs to be dominant and dominating.

In the spiritual realm we need to learn submission because everything we do as spiritual leaders is a submission to God.

- ✓ Submission to God,
- ✓ Submission to God's Word,
- ✓ Submission to God's plan,
- ✓ Submission to Holy Spirit,
- ✓ Submission to God's purpose.

Leaders tend to be confident. They tend to be overt. They tend to be eager. They tend to be aggressive. They tend to dominate. Peter had that in him. He was just fast talking, fast acting. He was the guy, he was the man, he was in charge, he could grab the bull by the horns, right, wrong, or indifferent. Jesus had to teach him the lesson of submission.

There are several ways in which Peter learned submission.

**Matthew 17:24**, *After Jesus and his disciples arrived in Capernaum, the collectors of the two-drachma temple tax came to Peter and asked, "Doesn't your teacher pay the temple tax?"*

Capernaum was the headquarters of Jesus' ministry in Galilee and the hometown of Peter and Andrew.

Two-drachma tax is two days' work, a substantial tax.

**Matthew 17:25**, *"Yes, he does," he replied. When Peter came into the house, Jesus was the first to speak. "What do you think, Simon?" he asked. "From whom do the kings of the earth collect duty and taxes—from their own children or from others?"*

Which was a bit of a problem for Peter. They hated the Romans. They hated the Roman taxation system. It was bad enough for them to have to pay the tax to the idolatrous pagan Romans, but to imagine the Lord of glory, the Son of God paying tax to Rome was probably unthinkable to Peter.

So, it may have been hard for him to admit that he had to say yes.

Jesus called him Simon because his thoughts were not good. Why should Jesus be paying taxes?

Why should we pay taxes as we are not a part of the kingdom of Rome, we are not even a part of the kingdom of this world?

Jesus is my King, and I am a son of the King.

Every Jew who was at all patriotic loathed the idea of paying taxes anyway and now that Peter had been promoted to the kingdom of God and had the Lord Jesus, the Messiah as his King, it was even more unthinkable to him that he should pay tax to Rome.

Jesus knew exactly what he was thinking because the question indicates He knew what he was thinking.

**Matthew 17:26**, *From others," Peter answered. "Then the children are exempt," Jesus said to him. <sup>27</sup> "But so that we may*

*not cause offense, go to the lake and throw out your line. Take the first fish you catch; open its mouth and you will find a four-drachma coin. Take it and give it to them for my tax and yours.”*

This may be a little confusing to Peter. He just made the point that the king's sons do not pay the tax and he must have thought that Jesus was agreeing with him.

Doesn't it bother all of you when you know somebody is not paying their tax and you are?

Peter learned his lesson.

Please do read Peter's epistles with Peter in mind. Because his letters are so much unlike him. The Peter of the gospels can hardly be the Peter of the epistles. The only explanation for that is that a tremendous metamorphosis went on in this man's life.

Peter admits that the people whom he is writing are aliens and strangers. This is believers scattered all over the Roman Empire. You are all strangers and aliens, and none of you belong here.

**1 Peter 2:11-12**, *Dear friends, I urge you, as foreigners and exiles, to abstain from sinful desires, which wage war against your soul. <sup>12</sup> Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.*

Peter advising them to make sure that they live their life so men cannot scandalize them and the gospel. They cannot honestly slander you.

### **How do you do that?**

**1 Peter 2:13-14**, *Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human authority: whether to the emperor, as the supreme authority,<sup>14</sup> or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right.*

Submit to everybody in authority from the king down to the governor, to everybody who represents him, submit!

Pay your tax, do what is right.

We conclude that Peter learned submission.

**1 Peter 2:15-17**, *For it is God's will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish people.<sup>16</sup> Live as free people, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as God's slaves.<sup>17</sup> Show proper respect to everyone, love the family of believers, fear God, honour the emperor.*

You are free.

You are free from human laws and human kingdoms.

But do not use that to cover up your greed!

Do what is right to honour God.

Hard for a leader naturally dominant, forceful, aggressive, out front, on top, calling the shots, to submit himself, that is very hard to do, particularly to government.

A true leader is one who has learned to submit, even to the most unlikely authority and that is the pagan, secular authority. If you can learn to submit there, you can learn to submit to that which is from God.

## **2. Self-discipline.**

There is an element of leadership that leaders have anger

One of the big problems among leaders in today's world is anger.

There is a wide-reaching movement today called "anger management."

Mostly with CEOs and people in high positions of leadership because they are angry all the time. What makes them angry is bureaucracies, government intervention, government laws, taxation, regulations, human resource problems, political correctness etc.

Leaders tend to be pioneer types like to say this is my dream. They just hit wall after wall with all the complexities of modern life and it generates a tremendous amount of anger.

You cannot fire anybody.

You cannot tell the truth about anybody.

You cannot tell anybody about anything that is wrong with anybody.

You have got all these other things to deal with.

You cannot get where you are going to go, and the frustration gets higher and higher and so you have got some guy coming in to teach you about anger management.

Everybody in the room is mad.

When the seminar is over, they are now mad at the guy who taught anger management. Never to have him back again and he does not understand the issues.

That is why marriages break up.

They go home and they are just as mad when they talk to their wife as they are at the office.

Anger plays a part.

That was true with Peter!

There were over 500 people, including the Roman soldiers, come to arrest Jesus at the Garden of Gethsemane. They are going to arrest Jesus captive and Peter gets angry at the thought of that, pulls out his sword and starts into the crowd.

The first guy in line is named Malchus, servant of the High Priest. He takes a swing at his head, misses his head. He ducks, he loses an ear. He is just one ear into the crowd. This is not rational.

They were skilled fighters. The Lord reaches over and gives Malchus an ear. You would think that would have created some conversation among the people. Apparently, it did not, they were so resolute.

**John 18:10-11**, *Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's servant, cutting off his right ear. (The servant's name was Malchus.)* <sup>11</sup> *Jesus commanded Peter, "Put your sword away! Shall I not drink the cup the Father has given me?"*

Peter lost his temper at that point. He was so angry at what was going to happen that he went into an irrational conduct. He needed to learn to restrain himself.

Peter did learn!

**1 Peter 2:21**, *To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps.*

Sometimes we must suffer.

Sometimes we must be taken captive.

Sometimes we must be put in prison.

Sometimes we must be executed.

Peter says that in the case of Christ, He set an example because He was suffering though.

Peter takes the prophetic words of **Isaiah 53:9** and quotes it here.

**1 Peter 2:22**, *“He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth.”*

Sometimes you are not guilty of anything, but you are being

- Vilified,
- Hindered,
- Imprisoned
- Tortured, and
- Persecuted.

So as Jesus.

**1 Peter 2:23-25**, *When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly. <sup>24</sup> “He himself bore our sins” in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; “by his wounds you have been healed.” <sup>25</sup> For “you were like sheep going astray,<sup>1</sup> but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.*

Jesus committed Himself to God.

You know the situation, it is not fair, it is not right, it is not just, I do not deserve it, I did not do anything to get this.

This is how it is, Father, I will not revile, I will not threaten them, I will just entrust my soul to You.  
That is the attitude.

That is sometimes very difficult for a leader to develop. People want to grab their sword and push their way through the opposition.

### **3. Humility**

It is one their traits for the natural leaders to be proud because they are followed.

People praise them.

People look up to them.

People admire them.

Peter and this are true of leaders too, had a tremendous amount of self-confidence.

**Matthew 26:33-35**, *Peter replied, "Even if all fall away on account of you, I never will." <sup>34</sup> "Truly I tell you," Jesus answered, "this very night, before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times." <sup>35</sup> But Peter declared, "Even if I have to die with you, I will never disown you." And all the other disciples said the same.*

Tremendous pride, self-confidence.

Many denials but on three different occasions, three different locations he made these denials right after he said he would not do it.

He had to learn not to trust in himself.

He had to learn not to be proud.

When he wrote his epistle, same epistle, look at

**1 Peter 5:2-6**, *Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, watching over them—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve;<sup>3</sup> not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock.<sup>4</sup> And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away.<sup>5</sup> In the same way, you who are younger, submit yourselves to your elders. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, "God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble."<sup>6</sup> Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time.*

**Isn't this great coming from Peter?**

Peter is saying,

You must learn, elders and pastors to be humble.

You must be submitting to your elders.

You must humble yourselves before one another.  
You must humble yourself under the mighty hand of God.

#### **4. Love**

Peter also learned love.

Natural leaders do not love. People are a means to their end. They use people. They set people up in a structure that gets them to their goal. It can even be true in church that people are simply pawns on the chess board, a means to an end.

Leaders tend to be task oriented rather than people oriented. They tend to plough over people to achieve their goals.

Peter needed to learn love and the Lord taught him that.

One of the most beautiful scenes between Jesus and the apostles, in the upper room the night of His betrayal.

**John 13**, they had come to dinner in this upper room they had for the night to hold the Passover. They were in Jerusalem. Jesus would be betrayed that night by Judas. He would then be arrested.

They were gathered for the supper and supper was a long event. It was a long supper and reclined, so that the head was

near somebody's feet. In those days the roads were either muddy or dusty, so feet were dirty.

The common custom was that when you went into a house for a meal like this there was a slave who was the lowest slaves of all servants who washed the feet. The least desirable of all jobs.

But there was not a slave. Nobody was there to do that and so they were prepared for supper, there had not been any foot washing which was very appropriate in that setting. It had not been done.

**John 13:4-6**, *so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. <sup>5</sup>After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him. <sup>6</sup>He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?"*

Jesus is taking on the role of the lowest of the low of slaves. He is washing the dirty feet of these apostles.

### **What they were doing?**

If you compare the other accounts, they were arguing about which of them was the greatest.

In a time when they are arguing about who is the greatest, nobody is going to become the servant and wash feet. They are all trying to convince each other that they should be elevated, not humiliated.

So, during their self-pride and self-exaltation, Jesus does what none of them would do.

Jesus comes to Simon Peter, and you can imagine that it was quiet until they got to Peter. They were stunned by what He was doing.

What do You think You're doing?

This is again the brash and bold Peter.

**John 13:7-8**, *Jesus replied, "You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand." <sup>8</sup> "No," said Peter, "you shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me."*

Peter is the master of the absolute statement, "

I will never deny You.

I will die first.

You will never wash my feet."

There is no grey in Peter's life, everything is black and white!

**John 13:10**, *"Then, Lord," Simon Peter replied, "not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!"*

There is no middle ground with Peter.  
Jesus washed his feet.

**John 13:10**, *Jesus answered, "Those who have had a bath need only to wash their feet; their whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you."*

This is sort of a spiritual symbol here.

Application of what took place here found in verses 34 and 35.

**John 13:34-35**, *"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. <sup>35</sup> By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."*

### **What were they arguing about?**

Which of them was the greatest?

They were arguing about who was the best.

Selfish.

### **How had Jesus loved them?**

Washed their feet.

You love by going all the way down and humbling yourselves, sacrificing yourself to meet a need at the lowest level.

You have got to love each other.

You cannot be fighting each other for prominence.

It is hard for leaders to wash the feet of those who are perceivably below them.

### **Did Peter learn to love?**

Peter did.

**1 Peter 4:8**, *Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins.*

Peter is commanding his readers to love each other fervently! Love to the maximum of your capacity.

Peter learned that and he told the aliens when he wrote the letter, the believers in the Roman world, to love each other.

## **5. Compassion.**

At the time of his denial, the Lord said to him you will strengthen others.

**Luke 22:31-32**, *“Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift all of you as wheat. <sup>32</sup>But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers.”*

What was this about?

Leaders tend to be short on compassion, short on being comforters.

They tend to be driven by the goals and driven by the objectives and driven through the process. They do not stop very long to care for the wounded as they go.

Peter needed to learn compassion.

Why did Jesus allow Peter to be tempted?

So that when it is over you can strengthen the brothers.

For the rest of your life, you will have compassion on people who struggle. Peter will have compassion on people who think they are stronger spiritually than they really are.

Peter will have compassion on people who struggle with temptation and fall into doubt and sin.

They need to be compassionate, tender-hearted, gracious, kind, comforting to those who struggle with sin.

We all hate to see self-righteous people brutalize somebody who falls into sin, as if they themselves had no sin. Peter need to learn that even the best and the noblest can be crushed because he was going to be crushed.

**1 Peter 5:7-10**, *Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.<sup>9</sup> Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is*

*undergoing the same kind of sufferings. <sup>10</sup> And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. <sup>11</sup> To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen.*

### **How does Peter know that?**

Been there!

This is a leader who understands human weakness.

This is a leader who has been to the bottom.

This is a leader whose weaknesses have been thrown in his face and he understands what men and women go through.

## **6. Courageous.**

One must have courage to be a spiritual leader because you are going to have opposition.

The kingdom of darkness is set against the kingdom of light.

Lies are set against the truth.

Satan is set against God.

The demons are set against the holy purposes of Christ.

There is going to be difficulty when you go.

Jesus said to Peter when he restored him at sea of Galilee in John 21.

"feed My sheep,"  
"shepherd My sheep"  
"feed My lambs"

You are going to die for me.

The price of preaching will be death for you, Peter, martyrdom.  
So, Peter is going to have to have courage.

Peter had not exhibited a lot of courage.  
He denies Jesus in front of various groups of people, no courage there.

But when we get into the book of Acts, something different has happened, seriously.

Acts 4, Peter and John come before the Sanhedrin, the Jewish ruling counsel. The Sanhedrin says you are not to speak at all or teach in the name of Jesus.

**Acts 4:18-20**, *Then they called them in again and commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. <sup>19</sup> But Peter and John replied, "Which is right in God's eyes: to listen to you, or to him? You be the judges! <sup>20</sup> As for us, we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard."*

Peter says it is a very simple decision:  
Shall we obey you or God?

Peter went ahead and preached.

In Acts 5 they were again brought before the Sanhedrin for not obeying their order to stop preaching. Again, they told them the same thing. You are not supposed to be doing this.

**Acts 5:29**, *Peter and the other apostles replied: "We must obey God rather than human beings!"*

Courage, spiritual leader must have that kind of courage.

Peter is not a compromiser.

He does not vacillate.

He is characterized by courage.

These are the character components that were necessary to make Peter the man God wanted him to be, to turn him from Simon into Rock.

Peter learned submission, restraint, humility, love, compassion, and courage from the Lord Himself and from the work of the Holy Spirit in his heart.

**What a man Peter was. Perfect?**

No.

Galatians 2. We know what he did in Galatians 2.

He did a terrible thing, he acted like a hypocrite.

He acted hypocritically. He was eating with the Gentiles, having a big time up in Antioch eating with the Gentiles, and some Judaizers showed up, some of the circumcision. He stopped eating with the Gentiles to try to please the Judaizers.

Paul says in Galatians, "I withstood him to the face." That is wrong, Peter. Peter was confronted by Paul himself.

**Galatians 2:11-13**, *When Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned. <sup>12</sup>For before certain men came from James, he used to eat with the Gentiles. But when they arrived, he began to draw back and separate himself from the Gentiles because he was afraid of those who belonged to the circumcision group. <sup>13</sup>The other Jews joined him in his hypocrisy, so that by their hypocrisy even Barnabas was led astray.*

Shows us that when Peter did it, everybody else did it too because he is a leader.

So crucial that leaders do what is right because they have followers. He was not perfect, but he responded to Paul's correction.

We do not know why he did that, whether he was trying to be inoffensive, which was novel for him. But he was not perfect, and I am glad that is there in Galatians 2 because if from then on all we have is perfection, we can't identify as well.

Peter's life could be summed up in the last words of the last epistle he wrote, "Grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ."