PETER... Heart of Gold... Feet of Clay!

Besides his "Mountain-Top" experiences, Peter also had some deep "valleys"... times when he "failed miserably"!

Peter's "Valleys"...

Peter's Denials of Jesus! Matthew 26:47-75.

MAJOR FAILURE!!!

"Autopsy" of A "Fall":

Causes of the Fall--Peter's Denial.

- Preceded by "smaller" failures.
- Pride!
- Failure to heed warnings!
- Failure to believe and follow God's Word!
- Following God from afar. Mt. 26:57-58.
- Fear!
- Fear of man!

Recovering from a Serious Fall:

- Awareness!
- Grief and Anguish of soul!
- Repentance/Confession of sin!
- Knowing that God is gracious and willing to forgive!
- ACCEPTING God's Forgiveness!
- Growing from it and moving beyond it!

Peter's Restoration, John 21

Prelude to the Restoration, 1-14.

Two Lessons:

- 1. If you are out of the will of God, God will allow you to FAIL MISERABLY!
- 2. Peter needs to know that Jesus can provide for his needs...even without his help!

Peter's Restoration, John 21

Process of the Restoration, 15-17.

Three Exchanges:

- 1. A Question.
- 2. An Answer.
- 3. A Charge!

The First Exchange...V. 15.

Question: Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?

agapé

Answer: Yes, Lord, you know that

Hove You. phileō

Charge: Tend (Feed) My Lambs.

The Second Exchange...V. 16.

Question: Simon, son of John, do you love me? agapé

Answer: Yes, Lord, you know that

Hove You. phileo

Charge: Shepherd My sheep.

The Third Exchange...V. 17.

Question: Simon, son of John, do you love me? phileō

Answer: Lord, you know all things, you know that I love You. phileō

Charge: Tend (Feed) My sheep.

Jesus Was testing Peter...

- Would he make arrogant comparisons?
- Would he boast in proud self-sufficiency?
- Would he make grandiose promises?

NOTE ALSO...all 3 times, Jesus asserted HIS ownership of the sheep and flock!

Peter's Restoration, John 21

Results of the Restoration, 18-19.

Distraction from the Restoration, 20-23.

APPLICATIONS FOR US:

- 1. God can still use you, regardless of and in spite of your past!
- 2. The most important attribute of a servant of God is **Loving God!**

APPLICATIONS FOR US:

3. What others do...or do not do...or MIGHT DO...or MIGHT NOT DO is not your concern!

Romans 14:12, "So then each one of us will give an account of himself to God."

Serve God...Follow Him...

Keep your eyes on Him...not on other people!



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