

**A SERMON SERIES FOR EASTER 2005**  
**The People of the Easter Story: The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly**  
**Message Three- Peter: Denial of the Christ**  
**Dr. Greg Tyree, BBC, AM, March 20, 2005**

***INTRODUCTION:***

Our Series:

- Pilate: Refusal of the Christ
- Judas: Betrayal of the Christ
- *Peter: Denial of the Christ*
- Barabbas: Grateful to the Christ
- John: Loyal to the Christ

***PROPOSITION:*** The news story on Peter, with its ups and downs, ends with good news!  
Your story can, too!

***I. THE GOOD NEWS.***

A. Peter Was a **Committed** Follower of Christ. John 4:18-20.

*<sup>18</sup>And Jesus, walking by the Sea of Galilee, saw two brothers, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. <sup>19</sup>Then He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men." <sup>20</sup>They immediately left their nets and followed Him.*

B. Peter Was a **Courageous** Follower of Christ. Matt. 26:50-54.

*<sup>50</sup>But Jesus said to him, "Friend, why have you come?" Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and took Him. <sup>51</sup>And suddenly, one of those who were with Jesus stretched out his hand and drew his sword, struck the servant of the high priest, and cut off his ear. <sup>52</sup>But Jesus said to him, "Put your sword in its place, for all who take the sword will perish by the sword. <sup>53</sup>"Or do you think that I cannot now pray to My Father, and He will provide Me with more than twelve legions of angels? <sup>54</sup>"How then could the Scriptures be fulfilled, that it must happen thus?"*

C. Peter Was a **Compassionate** Follower of Christ. Acts. 3:6.

*Then Peter said, "Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk."*

## II. THE BAD NEWS.

A. Peter Was Sometimes Negatively **Impetuous**. John 13:1-11.

*<sup>1</sup>Now before the feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that His hour had come that He should depart from this world to the Father, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end. <sup>2</sup>And supper being ended, the devil having already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray Him, <sup>3</sup>Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He had come from God and was going to God, <sup>4</sup>rose from supper and laid aside His garments, took a towel and girded Himself. <sup>5</sup>After that, He poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded. <sup>6</sup>Then He came to Simon Peter. And Peter said to Him, "Lord, are You washing my feet?" <sup>7</sup>Jesus answered and said to him, "What I am doing you do not understand now, but you will know after this." <sup>8</sup>Peter said to Him, "You shall never wash my feet!" Jesus answered him, "If I do not wash you, you have no part with Me." <sup>9</sup>Simon Peter said to Him, "Lord, not my feet only, but also my hands and my head!" <sup>10</sup>Jesus said to him, "He who is bathed needs only to wash his feet, but is completely clean; and you are clean, but not all of you." <sup>11</sup>For He knew who would betray Him; therefore He said, "You are not all clean."*

B. Peter Was Sometimes Negatively **Influenced**. Gal. 2:11-14.

*<sup>11</sup>Now when Peter had come to Antioch, I withstood him to his face, because he was to be blamed; <sup>12</sup>for before certain men came from James, he would eat with the Gentiles; but when they came, he withdrew and separated himself, fearing those who were of the circumcision. <sup>13</sup>And the rest of the Jews also played the hypocrite with him, so that even Barnabas was carried away with their hypocrisy.*

C. Peter Was Sometimes Naturally **Impulsive**. Matt. 14:28-31.

*<sup>28</sup>And Peter answered Him and said, "Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water." <sup>29</sup>So He said, "Come." And when Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water to go to Jesus. <sup>30</sup>But when he saw that the wind was boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink he cried out, saying, "Lord, save me!" <sup>31</sup>And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him, and said to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?"*

### III. **THE UGLY NEWS.**

#### A. Peter **Denied** Christ. Matt. 26:69-75.

<sup>69</sup>Now Peter sat outside in the courtyard. And a servant girl came to him, saying, "You also were with Jesus of Galilee." <sup>70</sup>But he denied it before them all, saying, "I do not know what you are saying." <sup>71</sup>And when he had gone out to the gateway, another girl saw him and said to those who were there, "This fellow also was with Jesus of Nazareth." <sup>72</sup>But again he denied with an oath, "I do not know the Man!" <sup>73</sup>And a little later those who stood by came up and said to Peter, "Surely you also are one of them, for your speech betrays you." <sup>74</sup>Then he began to curse and swear, saying, "I do not know the Man!" Immediately a rooster crowed. <sup>75</sup>And Peter remembered the word of Jesus who had said to him, "Before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times." So he went out and wept bitterly.

#### B. Peter **Deserted** Christ. Matt. 26:55, 56.

<sup>55</sup>In that hour Jesus said to the multitudes, "Have you come out, as against a robber, with swords and clubs to take Me? I sat daily with you, teaching in the temple, and you did not seize Me. <sup>56</sup>"But all this was done that the Scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled." Then all the disciples forsook Him and fled.

### IV. **THE GREAT NEWS.**

#### A. Peter Was a **Repentant** Sinner. John 21:15-17.

<sup>15</sup>So when they had eaten breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me more than these?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." He said to him, "Feed My lambs." <sup>16</sup>He said to him again a second time, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." He said to him, "Tend My sheep." <sup>17</sup>He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?" Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, "Do you love Me?" And he said to Him, "Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You." Jesus said to him, "Feed My sheep.

#### B. Peter Was a **Redeemable** Servant. John 21:18, 19.

<sup>18</sup>"Most assuredly, I say to you, when you were younger, you girded yourself and walked where you wished; but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will gird you and carry you where you do not wish." <sup>19</sup>This He spoke, signifying by what death he would glorify God. And when He had spoken this, He said to him, "Follow Me."

## ***APPLICATION:***

1. What have you ever “given up” to follow Christ? What would you truly give up to continue to follow Him?
2. What is the “bravest” thing you have ever done for Christ? Have you ever been “brave” for Christ?
3. Is your spiritual life sometimes like a “rollercoaster”? What can you do to be more consistent in your walk with Christ?
4. How easily are you influenced by others? How much do you influence others?
5. If your coworkers (neighbors, friends, etc.) were asked if you are a committed Christian, what would *they* say?
6. When was the last time you “stood up” for Christ at work (school, neighborhood, etc.)?
7. How repentant, and thus redeemable, are you?