

4

The Courageless Disciple

Introduction

Text: Mt 26:69-75

I — Simple denial (v70)

II — Denial with an oath (v72)

III — Denial with cursing (v74)

Simon (Greek) = hearing ← original name

Peter (Greek) = stone ← surname

Cephas (Aramaic) = rock

The study of the life of **Peter** is an encouragement for everyone!

An oscillating and vascillating fisherman became a solid and steady apostle!

The courageless disciple was changed from being shifting sand to a solid stone!

Backslider! Take hope in Peter's restoration!
Jesus specially cared for this
courageless disciple — Mk 16:6,7

Everything Peter did during the Passion Week was out of FEAR —

eg) Cutting someone's ear-lobe!

Jn 18:10,11 — High Priest's servant —

Poor sexton!

The sexton's relative threatened him —

Jn 18:26

The dramatic change in Peter's life is noticed in his Epistles —

Three vital areas to be courageous —

1. Courage to witness for Christ

1 Pet 2:9 ... Royal Priests for Royal Proclamation.

On **His Majesty's Service!**

A fisherman is speaking palace language!

Dear Believer, who are you?

- *Chosen Generation* — Not Abraham's fleshly lineage.
- *Royal Priesthood* — OT vs. NT
- All are clergy! No laity in the NT
- *Holy Nation* — Not simply Israel
- *His own special people* — Not just VIPs but VVIPs!

3:15 ... Eveready witnesses ...

4:10,11 ... Each one **has** a gift!

Speak as the "oracles" of God

= Majestic Message

"*dominion*" = sovereignty

Peter after Pentecost —

Act 2:14 ... "raised" his voice ..."

3:6 ... What I "have" I give you!

(Imagine his boldness in lifting up the 40-yr old fellow!)

4:13 ... "boldness" of Peter and John

"uneducated"

"untrained"

but Unctioned!

Today we have graduation

and ordination but no unction!

4:20 ... We **cannot but** speak!

5:29,30 ... We'll obey "God rather than men."

2. Courage to oppose the apostates

Not only to stand **for** the truth
but also to stand **against** untruth!

2 Pet 1:19-21 ... Bible **not** of private origin

The Bible “contains” the Word of God ✕

The Bible “is” the Word of God ✓

2:1-3 ... *False teachers ... “denying the Lord”*

— i.e. They say, Christ is **one of the** ways!

“many” will follow them!

“Truth is usually in the minority in this evil world”

— C.H. Spurgeon

3:3,4,16 ...

Scoffers — Second Coming questioned

Twisters — eg) Removing the miracle

element from Bible

“For evil to triumph, good men should do nothing!”

“I can’t abide cowardice;

I refuse to make my God and Saviour a non-entity!”

— C.T. Studd

“A dog barks when his master is attacked;

I would be a coward if I saw that God’s truth is attacked
and yet would remain silent, without giving my sound!”

— John Calvin

3. Courage to face trials and suffering

1 Pet 1:6,7 ... *Faith ... Gold ... Testing*

Gold can be bought

but Faith can only be got!

“All men do not have faith!” (2 Thess 3:2)

2:21 ... *Suffering ... example ... steps*

Gandhi has left caps.

Christ has left steps!

3:14 ... Do not be afraid of threats!

eg) Daniel/Darius/Lion

Kings/King of animals

“Righteous as bold as a lion!” (Prov 28:1)

Hananiah, Azariah, Mishael

Fire! — Love for God is a greater fire!

(SS 8:6,7)

Love walk with the 4th Young Man!

Jesus to Peter: *“Do you love Me?”* (Jn 21:15-17)

1 Pet 4:12,13 ... *fiery trial ... glory ...*

5:8-10 ... *the devil like a lion ...*

Yes, he is only an imitator!

Martin Luther: “Even if all the tiles would become devils,
here I stand!”

J.C. Ryle: “There are no gains without pains!”

“I would rather have holy pain than unholy pleasure!”

Peter was named a “solid rock;”

but he was a “stumbling block”

before Pentecost — avoiding suffering.

Now he is changed!

He has fallen in love with Jesus!

“Perfect love casts away fear!” (1 Jn 4:18)

Finally,

Peter told his executors, “Crucify me upside down!”

If Christ could change Simon Peter,

He can change me too!