

**Welcome friends to another broadcast of “Morsels for Zion’s Poor”**

Peter must have been quite a man. He was relatively fearless in many respects and was someone to be reckoned with, humanly speaking. He was probably what we might call a “bull of the woods.” The type of man you would be glad to have around as a friend, if someone else was intent on causing you trouble or bringing harm to you. He was a no nonsense type person who meant what he said and said what he meant. He was the only one of the disciples who had the boldness and temerity to step out of the boat in quite a frightening scenario. If one should doubt his willingness to confront those who came to arrest the LORD JESUS, he need only look at him as he unsheathes his sword and sets out to cut someone’s head off. So we have no doubt that Peter fully believed and meant what he told the LORD that he would do. *“Though all men shall be offended because of thee, yet will I never be offended.-Though I should die with thee, yet will I not deny thee.* While Peter expressed the true intent of his heart and mind, yet he had to learn some very important lessons about himself and the nature of the Kingdom of GOD, and through him those same lessons are illustrated to the sons of GOD.

The LORD will have all of the glory in the establishment of HIS Kingdom and all of the boasting of men shall be laid in the dust. The endeavors and strength of men will be brought to nothing. They will be shown to have no strength at all. Nothing that a man can perform or will to do can enhance, promote, or hinder this Kingdom nor can any man stand therein by his own power, might, or activity of his own free will.. Peter was certain that he would be able to even lay down his life for the LORD if necessary. Yet Peter, (like many strong religious men), was not able to recognize his own impotence to endure as he confused human endeavor with the ability to walk in faith. He only considered his ability in the flesh and assumed that he possessed faith enough to perform mighty deeds when necessary like many of the health and wealth money grabbers of the present day..

It was therefore needful that the LORD should strip Peter of all confidence in his flesh so that he might understand that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of GOD. Until a man is brought to know his total inability to gain any standing with GOD, he will never enter therein. The LORD ordained that Peter should deny HIM three times. The LORD prophetically declared to HIS disciples, *“All ye shall be offended because of me this night.”* *“But Peter said unto him, Although all shall be offended, yet will not I.”* After Peter’s first affirmation of his own strength, the LORD prophesied that this very night Peter would deny HIM three times. Once again Peter rejected the LORD’s prophecy and said with even greater vigor. *“If I should die with thee, I will not deny thee in any wise.”* So we see him twice trusting to the arm of his flesh and certain that he had the “right stuff” to stand with and for the LORD. In this he is akin to those who in the present day speak about their great faith. Any man who will boast of his ability to be “strong” and “stand firm” in “faith” and devotion is not well acquainted with, either, Peter or himself. The arm of the flesh will surely fail, even when it may appear to men that it is able to stand and even triumph to some degree.

Then we see Peter’s final affirmation of his willingness to die with/and/or for the LORD when he drew his sword.) It appears that some of the disciples asked the LORD whether or not they should draw their swords but Peter did not wait for an answer but took matters into his own hands and smote Malchus, cutting off his ear when he probably intended to cut off his head. I find it interesting that Peter’s final denial was as extreme as was his final act of affirmation. A fitting end for the boasting of men, for immediately the cock crowed.

Peter denied that he knew the LORD, three times just like he affirmed his allegiance and unwavering devotion three times. The fact that the LORD chastened Peter in the fashion in which HE did, demonstrates that HE will lose none of those which the FATHER gave HIM and will not leave HIS sheep to fend for themselves or to be found relying upon their own righteousness and power. HE will humble those whom HE loves and give them a broken and a contrite heart Peter was brought to repentance, by the mercy and power of GOD. Are you strong in your faith like Peter in the beginning, or humbled before the LORD as he was in the end?

*“Thy free grace alone,”#11* **If you would like a free transcript of this broadcast email us at [forthepoor@windstream.net](mailto:forthepoor@windstream.net)**