

A Declaration of Those Things Which Are Most Surely Believed Among Us

An Expositional Study of **The Gospel According to Luke** **Chapter 7- Jesus Chooses His Apostles- Luke 6:12-16** 82- Jesus Chooses His Apostles- Part 6 Peter- Part 3

July 25, 2010

Luke 6:12-16

¹² **It was at this time that He went off to the mountain to pray, and He spent the whole night in prayer to God.**

¹³ **And when day came, He called His disciples to Him and chose twelve of them, whom He also named as apostles:**

¹⁴ **Simon, whom He also named Peter, and Andrew his brother; and James and John; and Philip and Bartholomew;**

¹⁵ **and Matthew and Thomas; James *the son* of Alphaeus, and Simon who was called the Zealot;**

¹⁶ **Judas *the son* of James, and Judas Iscariot, who became a traitor.**

Now this morning- we are continuing our examination of the twelve men whom Jesus called Apostles. And we have already learned some very important facts about these men.

The Apostles are men who were specially chosen to do a very special thing- not to simply build a building- but to establish the Christian Church on the earth, and these men did that by formulating and writing down the inspired and inerrant and authoritative body of teaching that would serve as the basis of our Faith- the 27 Books of the New Testament.

And as we have discovered- these 27 Books not only lay out for us the details of Who Jesus is and What Jesus did- but they also give us the information that we need on how sinful people may become fully justified before a holy God, and instruction on how we are to live our daily lives after we are saved in a way that is pleasing and honoring to God, and these 27 Books also teach us how to organize and run the Church in accord with God's Will.

And we have also discovered that these 12 men were specially equipped and gifted by the Holy Spirit to the degree that they had the ability to correctly and fully interpret the 39 Books of the Old Testament- so that we may know and understand what the OT Prophets meant by what they wrote down.

And we also saw how that these men were also specially gifted by the Holy Spirit to perform unnatural signs and wonders and to manifest various supernatural gifts for the express purpose of bringing Divine credibility and authority to what they said and what they wrote down so that there would be absolutely no doubt at all that the writings of the Apostles are Divinely inspired and they deserve to be added to the 39 Books of the Old Testament, and that together these 66 Books, and these 66 Books alone, make up the complete Canon of Scripture that contains the full and complete Revelation of God to Man and has all that we need for both life and godliness.

And so we have learned that as members, in particular, of the Body of Jesus Christ in the 21st Century- our job and our duty as the modern Church is not to receive new Revelation from God, and it is not to reinvent the wheel or to get a new spin on the Word of God or to try to develop new angles or new ways and methods of serving Christ- but our job is to earnestly contend for the very same Faith that was once and for all delivered to the saints, and to teach the very same Apostles Doctrine that these 12 men taught, and to believe the very same things that the early Church taught, and to be faithful to what the Apostles and Prophets wrote down for us in the Holy Bible.

And so while many people run around the world today laying claim that they are Apostles of the Lord- we can easily see that these people hold that office and title illegitimately, and while these people may well be missionaries or evangelists or even pastors or teachers- they are certainly not Apostles, because all that Jesus desired for these men to do was done and it was completed and it was finished and there wasn't anything left out and there wasn't anything left undone, and all that we wait for now is for Jesus to burst forth from the Eastern Sky and to come back and lay claim to the Church that He chose for Himself and that he bought and paid for with His Own Blood.

And so we labor on- so that on that day- we may hear the most blessed Words that any man could ever hear when the Lord Himself will return with a shout and with the sound of the archangel and take

account of what we have done in this life and say to us- *"Well done good and faithful servants- you have been faithful over a few things- and I will make you ruler over many things- enter thou into the joy of the Lord."*

And that is my motivation, and that is my joy, and that is why I labor on- because I really do believe that this will happen and I am looking forward to it and I am staking my life on it. Someone asked me recently, *"Well, you believe that every problem can be solved in Jesus Christ, don't you?"* And I replied, *"You betcha. That is exactly right. I really and truly do believe that Jesus Christ is the answer to every question and the solution to every problem"*. I sure do. So this is not a job to me, this is not an occupation, I'm not a hireling. This is not a pipe dream or simply blind faith or a strongly held opinion. No, serving Jesus Christ is reality- this is truth- this works!

Now I also told you that I am in awe of these men- because they should have failed in their mission. They should have collapsed under the weight and the enormity of their Calling. But they *didn't* fail, and they *didn't* collapse, and they *didn't* falter- they succeeded in accomplishing everything that Christ commissioned them to do, and the fact that these men were simply men, and the fact that every one of them were sinful and weak and frail and tempted and had human failings just like we do, and the fact that with all these weaknesses and with all these temptations and with all this sinfulness inherent in their flesh - the fact that even with all that- they succeeded is testimony to the Power and the Omnipotence and the Glory of the risen Christ.

So this effort by these men- acting as the Apostles of Jesus Christ- had never been done before and it will never be done again- so these men were very unique, they were special, they were one of a kind, and with the death of John- sometime near the end of the 1st Century- the office and the title and the position and the authority and the unction and the supernatural gifting of the Apostles came to a close, and it ceased for one very important reason- they did what God called them to do and they completed their task- it was done; it was finished. Now please turn with me to **2Timothy 2:1&2**

¹ **You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.**

² **The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.**

Now, Paul is speaking here to his son in the faith- Timothy- a young 30-something Pastor of the Church at Ephesus. And here Paul tells Timothy that part of his responsibility as Pastor is to find some faithful men that he can commit the Word of God to, that he can teach and invest in so that they will be properly trained in the Scriptures, and so they in turn can do the same to other men.

Now this is the Biblical concept of passing the *Doctrine* of the Apostles down from one generation to the next. And this should never be confused with the false and the unbiblical concept that the Roman Catholic Church practices that they call "Apostolic Succession", where they think they pass on the Apostolic Office and Apostolic Authority and Apostolic Anointing from one generation to the next. And it should also be noted that many none-denominational and Pentecostal sects also practice this false "Apostolic Succession" concept as they teach that they are able to pass on Apostolic Authority and Anointing from one person to the next and from one generation to the next.

No, what Paul is teaching Timothy here is not handing the office of Apostle or the Apostolic Authority or the Apostolic Anointing down from one generation to the next, but handing down the correct and the full understanding of the Word of God- the Apostles *Doctrine*- from one generation to the next.

Regardless of what the modern Church teaches- human beings do not have the power or the ability to distribute the Call of God to anyone else, and we cannot pass on the Anointing or Divine Authority from one person to the next. We can't even pass on Salvation from one generation to the next. God alone has to save, God alone has to call, and God alone has to anoint. That is not what we are able to do.

But what we *can* do and what we *must* do in obedience to this passage is to teach and to preach and to explain and to live out the full meaning of the Scriptures, and pass that teaching down from one generation to the next.

And in light of this- I am also amazed at another group of men. I am amazed at the men who led the Church immediately *after* the death of John- the last living Apostle. And here is why I am amazed at these men. These men had great credibility because of their personal connection with Peter, Paul, John, and the other Apostles. For example- Polycarp was John's very close disciple. According to history-

John himself had prayed with Polycarp to receive Christ. So the men who led the Christian Church in the 2nd Century were held on great respect because of their personal connection with the Apostles.

And everyone in the Church honored the Apostles, and so the men who led the Church immediately after the death of John could have taken the Church in any direction they wanted to and the people would have gladly followed them. We need to remember that the majority of the people of that day were illiterate and the people trusted the leaders of the Church as much or more than people do today, and these men had the opportunity to lead the Church into anything they wanted to do, and they could have laid claim to be Apostles themselves, and they could have told people that they heard directly from God, like Peter did, and they could have told people that they received Divine Revelation directly from God, like Paul did, and they could have told people that they were specially chosen with Divine Authority, just like John. They could have said these things and they probably would have gotten away with it- nobody would have known any different.

In fact- it might have made more sense to tell people that the very same pattern that God had established with the Apostles was now continuing on with them- that might have even made more sense.

But history reveals to us that these men didn't say that at all. These men didn't teach that. These men refused to accept the position and the title and the reverence of Apostle - even when it was handed to them because they knew that what the Apostles had done was special and unique, and that it was over and that it was completed, and as you read what Justin Martyr and Polycarp and Irenaeus and Tertullian and Origen and others wrote- you can see that without exception- they all referred back to what they called "The Age of the Apostles", that special and unique time when the Apostles of Jesus did receive Direct Revelation from God to complete the Scriptures, and confirmed that Revelation with signs and wonders and gifts of the Holy Ghost. And so the men who led the Church in the 2nd Century were very careful *not* to lay claim to any special anointing for themselves, and they were very careful to avoid any undue reverence toward themselves, and they refused to accept the notion that what they said or what they wrote was in any way inspired- because it wasn't- and they knew it.

They taught that since the death of John- their job was not to receive new Revelation, it wasn't to communicate with angels, it wasn't

to have dreams and visions and supernatural manifestations- these men all taught that their job was to teach and preach and practice the already existing Revelation of God that had been handed down to them by the Apostles and Prophets in the 66 Books of the Holy Bible.

So without exception- their focus was on the written Word of God to teach and preach and explain and live what had already been given to them, and that tradition is now 20 Centuries old now and we carry that very same tradition forward to you today in this Church - that our effort and our focus and our prayer and our struggle is not to hear anything new from Heaven, it is to labor to understand and to love and to obey what has already been given to us by God, and what has been already written down for us today in this precious Book because these are the Words of God; these are the only Words on earth that are inspired and inerrant and infallible and authoritative and eternal and these Words are relevant for our lives today.

Now over the last several weeks- we have been looking closely at Peter. And the Apostle John knew Peter very well. And so, as a result of John knowing Peter so well- seventeen times in the Gospel of John- John calls him "Simon Peter". And I really love that because it shows that John really couldn't make up his mind about Peter because he saw both sides all the time. So he just decided to split the difference and call him "Simon Peter," which means that he was sometimes weak and was "Simon", and on other occasions- he acted like a rock and was "Peter".

So, in reality, all of this is nothing more than the understanding that Peter was really no different than any of us. He was both carnal and spiritual- functioning in the flesh sometimes and functioning in the Spirit at other times. He was sinful sometimes and then he was very righteous at other times.

And this was so clear that the Lord even gave him a name to try to reinforce what He wanted him to be- because Jesus wanted this man to be a rock.

Now think about this- this guy- this vacillating sometimes Simon and sometimes Peter guy- this is the leader of the Twelve Apostles! Boy, how the Lord must hate self-righteous people! There was absolutely nothing about Peter that is self-righteous- that wasn't his problem. This is the greatest and the most prominent preacher of the Twelve, and this is the man- who more than any other Apostle besides Paul laid the foundation of the Church- is the hero in the first twelve

chapters of **The Book of the Acts**- and yet this man was as much Simon as he was Peter- and that should give us all great hope.

Because what we have to remember is that just four verses after one the greatest interchanges between Jesus and any human being on earth- just four verses after Jesus calls this man "Peter", a small little pebble, just four verses after Jesus praised Peter for receiving and confessing the Divine Revelation that Jesus is the Christ the Son of the living God- just four verses later- after Jesus began to tell his Apostles how He must suffer and die in order to accomplish God 's Will for Him to pay for the sins of the whole world- Peter actually rebukes Jesus Christ, and in verse **23**- Jesus says this to the man he just called a rock-

Get behind Me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to Me; for you are not setting your mind on God's interests, but man's.

Now notice that Jesus didn't say, *"Hey, hold on a minute Peter- I love you and I know you mean well- but you must remember that God sent Me here to die- that is the only reason why I came- to die- this is God's Will."* No, Jesus didn't say that- He simply called Peter, satan".

Now I don't know if any of us would continue to follow Someone Who called us "satan"- because we are so much more holy and so much more righteous than these guys were, but Peter did continue to follow Jesus- precisely because Peter knew that Jesus was right.

And I say again to you what I'm going to say through the whole series- if God could use these unworthy and these unqualified men, then surely God can use us. And if God couldn't use these unworthy and these unqualified men, then He couldn't use *anybody*- because the humbling truth of the matter is that *everybody* is just like this.

Now, this morning I want you to grab something about Peter that I think is really fascinating. All of the Apostles were dynamic and strong and powerful men. So, all of them were leaders in that sense. But Peter was the leader of all these other leaders- no question. The Lord chose him to be the leader of all the leaders. And the Lord equipped him to be the leader. And the Lord shaped him to be the leader and trained him to be the leader and held him accountable as the leader, and so Jesus rebuked Peter as though he was the leader.

And so, when you look at Peter- you can see how God builds a leader. And this is a classic, Biblical illustration of how God builds a

true godly leader. So if you want to know how the Lord shapes a leader- study Peter. He's the key to understanding that issue. The Gospels are literally filled with Peter's name. Peter's name is mentioned in the Gospels more than any other name besides Jesus. Nobody speaks as often as Peter, and nobody is spoken to by the Lord as often as was Peter. No disciple is so rebuked by the Lord as was Peter, and no disciple ever rebuked Jesus but Peter.

No disciple ever so boldly confessed and outspokenly acknowledged the Lordship of Christ as Peter, and no one denied it as boldly as Peter. No one is so praised and blessed as Peter, and Jesus never called any other Apostle "satan", but Peter.

The Lord had harder things to say to Peter than He ever said to anybody else, and that was part of making him the man that Jesus wanted him to be- the leader that Christ desired. God took a very common man with an ambivalent, vacillating, impulsive, unsubmissive and violent personality, and Jesus shaped him into the leader of the Twelve- the greatest preacher out of the Apostles, and in every sense the real power of the first twelve chapters of Acts which is all about the birth of the Church. I am absolutely amazed at Peter. And one of the tragedies of the Roman Church elevating Peter up into a place that he doesn't belong is that many well-meaning Protestants now devalue Peter down into place where he doesn't belong, either, in order to try to undo what Rome has done.

Peter was not like the other 11 men and we need to say that. He was unique and special and we need to say that.

Now there has to be three elements for the Lord to make a true godly leader. And I'm going to go as far as I can in this- this morning and finish up next week.

Now there's an age-old question that people have pondered for centuries, and that is- are leaders born or are they made? And I want to fall on the side that says that all true leaders are born to be leaders. All true leaders are born with certain God-given abilities and talents that God gave them, but then we must also recognize that those raw talents must be developed and shaped and molded through life by God's Providence- usually at the hands of other men. So leaders are born to be leaders with raw talents, but then all good leaders are honed and tried and proven and molded and shaped by the fires of life - usually at the hands of other men- both godly and ungodly men.

Peter had that God-given fabric woven into his personality to make him a leader by birth. He had all the right raw material. And the Lord wove that into him in his mother's womb. The Lord put together all the right stuff to make Peter the man that could later be shaped into a great leader.

And so there are some personal features of a leader that are critical to all leaders that *cannot* be developed- they must be born with them. So I want to look quickly at three elements that make a true godly leader:

1. He Must be Inquisitive
2. He Must Have Initiative
3. He Must be Involved

So let's take these one at a time.

1. A True Leader Must be Born Inquisitive

When you're looking for a leader- find somebody who asks a lot of questions because this is really important. People who don't ask *any* questions, or who are easily satisfied and content and who are not curious and who don't ask very many questions don't make good leaders.

So, what I am saying is that curiosity is critical to leadership. People who are content with what they don't know and content with what they don't understand and content with what they haven't analyzed and content with problems they haven't solved can't lead effectively.

Leaders have to have an almost *insatiable* curiosity to know what they don't know, and an *unstoppable* drive to understand what they don't understand. These people understand that knowledge truly is power. And therefore- whoever has the information has the lead. So if you want to find a good and an effective leader- look for somebody who asks a lot of questions.

Now some of you parents have children like that. You have maybe one child out of your little batch and this little child just asks question after question after question after question. And sometimes you get angry at them as you try to answer all those questions.

But we have to realize that God put that curiosity in them because that is the very fabric of leadership. This tremendous internal drive to know what they don't know and to understand what they don't understand is all about solving problems.

Now you've probably got another child who sits in the corner quietly and never asks anything. And that child might be the smartest child you have and will probably grow up and be a computer programmer or a genius- but he will work for the leader. So this is not about one child being better or more godly than the other- it is simply about God's Sovereignty in granting one child superior brains while giving the other one the insatiable desire to know.

Leaders are usually very smart- but they are not usually the smartest guy in the room. Albert Einstein was probably the most intelligent man ever born- but he wasn't a leader. He failed math in school twice and couldn't count the change in your hand. He also couldn't make up his mind what to wear- so he had a closet full of the very same color shirts, the very same color pants, with the very same color coat- so he wouldn't have to waste any time figuring out what matched.

Quiet people are some of the smartest people on earth- and we need them- God made them that way and we should celebrate that. But true leaders have tremendous curiosity.

Also, true leaders never mind people asking them questions. In fact - the more questions that people ask- the more a true leader thrives. The only man who gets angry at questions is the man who has nothing to say.

Now in the Gospel Accounts- Peter asks more questions than all the other Apostles combined. And as you read through the four Gospels and the Book of the Acts and his two Epistles- you come away with the thought that Peter was always trying to understand what was going on- he was constantly trying to put the pieces together.

And it is a common saying that there are three kinds of people on earth- there are people who "*make* things happen", and the people who "*watch* things happen", and the people who say, "*What happened?*" Peter asked questions- so he could make things happen.

2. A True Leader Must Have Initiative

If a man is to be wired for leadership- he *has* to have initiative. He has to be a self-starter; he must have a drive and a determination that cannot be stopped. When things get difficult and most people stop- a true leader will forge through the problem because he can't stop- there is just no stop in him. Peter had this initiative in him- God gave it to him. Peter not only asked all the questions- but if you notice as you read through the Scriptures- Peter was also the first one to answer any question that Jesus asked. And he would just fearlessly dive right in where angels feared to tread.

Jesus asked, *"Who do people say that I am?"*, and Peter just blurted out- *"Oh, they say You're Jeremiah or one of the other prophets"*. And then Jesus asked, *"But who do you say that I am?"*, and once again- without any hesitation at all- Peter just blurted out- *"Oh, You're the Christ- the Son of the living God!"*

Now the rest of those guys were still processing the first question. But Peter was very fast. And that's also a part of great leadership- being fast on the trigger. Now that's always a doubled edged sword because sometimes Peter had to reel it back and try to undo and try to unsay things, and the result is that Peter was rebuked more than all the other Apostles combined- but that's all part of leadership, too- to grab initiative by the throat and make tons of mistakes and learn from them.

People who are paralyzed by the fear of making a mistake don't make good leaders. They make good mothers and they make good scientists and they even make good writers- but they don't make good leaders. Leaders see a need and they act- they don't wait for a committee to assess the danger.

During the episode in the Garden of Gethsemane, as recorded in **John 18**, there came the Roman soldiers from Port Antonia- something like 500 of them- including the high priest and all the others from the Temple, to arrest Jesus and take Him back to Jerusalem. And this sea of soldiers is there- all armed and all well trained to fight in combat, and what happens? Peter immediately draws out his sword and takes a swing at the head of Malchus- the servant of the high priest to cut his head off. Now the high priest is out in front of this crowd because he

was the dignitary of dignitaries, and so he's out in the front and right next to him is his servant- Malchus.

And here is Peter trying to kill the guy. And the servant ducked just in time and didn't lose anything but his ear. And the Bible says that Jesus rebuked Peter and said, *"Put your sword away, Peter. If you live by the sword- you'll die by the sword."* And Jesus was essentially saying that if you take a life- then you're going to forfeit your own- because Jesus was affirming God's approval of capital punishment for murder as a Divine Law as outlined back in **Genesis**.

But just think about this. There is a whole Roman army there to take Jesus. So just exactly what does Peter think he's going to do- go through the whole group one at a time? So by this we see Peter's impulsiveness - how he acts before he thinks- and how he doesn't take the long view or the broad view- it's just he sees the need and he acts without hesitation. And we rightly criticize this- but we need to understand that this is the stuff of leadership. Now keep in mind that this natural impulsiveness needs to be developed and it needs to be refined- but it has to be there in the first place or it can't be developed or refined.

I'd much rather have to reel somebody back in like this than try to instill initiative in them to begin with. I'd much rather recover somebody who acted impulsively like this rather than try to motivate somebody to take the initiative in the first place.

There are just some people you just have to drag kicking and screaming in any forward direction. But, not Peter. He always wanted to know what he didn't know. And he always wanted to understand what he didn't understand. And he was the first one to ask a question and he was the first one to answer the question. And he was the first one to take the initiative and charge ahead and have to be corrected and refined and even rebuked- but that's the stuff of leadership.

But even though Peter is born with this inquisitiveness and this natural initiative- this is very raw, and it must be shaped and molded and developed, or it will become destructive over the long haul. So it's going to be very critical to Peter for Jesus to develop these natural raw traits that God has given to him.

But he's got to have some kind of ginger- some kind ofchutzpah- as the Jews would say- some kind of courage to stand up in Jerusalem on Pentecost and preach the Gospel in the face of the population that

had just executed their Messiah. That's going to take tremendous courage- but that's the kind of guy Peter is. He's not trying to be a hero- he is just acting normally. So by the time the Lord has finished shaping that raw- God-given initiative- it has been transformed into a holy boldness that God can use.

3. A True Leader Must Have Personal Involvement

A true leader is always right in the middle of the action. A true leader is not sitting in the background telling everybody else what to do while he lives a life of comfort and security away from the dirt and away from the fight. A true leader is personally at risk. It is possible that he could lose everything- but people will not follow someone who doesn't personally risk everything himself.

A true leader goes through life with a cloud of dust all around him. And that's why people follow him. People don't follow somebody from a distance- they follow somebody who is in the fight, who is getting their hands dirty- who is taking hits himself, and who gets back up and fights again.

Jesus comes one night and He's walking on the water. And who out of all the disciples jumps out of the boat? Peter. There's the Lord and I'm here, and there is absolutely no reason why I need to sit here in this boat in all this safety and security while Jesus is over there walking on the water. I need to be where the action is- where the rubber meets the road- I need to be with Jesus. So Peter says, *"Lord, if that is really You- then tell me to come out there on the water so I can defy the law of physics, and so I can walk on water, too!"*

And so, Jesus says, *"Come on!"* And what happens? Bang- Peter is out of the boat in a heartbeat. And what is amazing about this is that Peter actually walks on the water, too- at least for a little while. But the rest of the disciples are just looking over the side and they are kind of adjusting how they're sitting in the boat and just trying to make sure that they don't fall overboard in the storm. And Peter's out on the water walking with Jesus.

So this is first-hand involvement, and this is serious involvement. Jesus was there- so Peter said, "I need to be there, too." It wasn't him being a show off- the way his brain worked is that since Jesus is out there- then I need to be with Him.

Now many people concentrate on Peter's lack of faith here, and they preach great sermons about how if only Peter would have kept his eyes on Jesus- then he wouldn't have sunk into the water. But it seems to me that their missing the important point here. Peter walked on water, and whether he walked on water for five seconds or ten minutes or forty years - nobody else in the history of the world has ever done that.

So the real question here is not about Peter's lack of faith, but where were the other eleven men? They never even got out of the boat. Talk about weak faith. So, before you criticize Peter's lack of faith here- remember where he was when he began to sink, and remember where the other eleven were. They never sunk- and Peter did sink- that is true- but the *reason* the other eleven men never sunk is because they never walked on water and Peter did.

Many times- people look at Peter's life and they say, "*Well, he's around the fire and he denies Jesus and the cock crows.*" But before you condemn Peter too quickly- remember that once again- Peter was the only one of the Apostles out there. Peter was all alone by that fire and so the real question is, "Where were the other eleven men"? I'll tell you where they were- they were running for their lives- scared to death that they might get caught.

So Peter was in a position where such a temptation could hit him because he was the only one doing his best to stay as close to Christ as he could. And that's a leader. He certainly isn't perfect- but he is trying. So what we learn from this is that everybody else may bail out- and run for the hills- but a true leader stays as close to the action as he can get- even when it endangers him personally.

I'm not interested in following a man who wants to send down lofty messages from afar. I want the people that I follow to be right there in the middle of the fight- engaged and personally involved, and not sitting on some mountain top away from the action.

So, that was the three elements of raw material that God put in Peter. There was the insatiable curiosity, and the unquenchable initiative, and the personal involvement. Peter asked all the questions, He was the first guy who tried to charge ahead for whatever responsibility needed to be done, and he wanted to be right in the middle of everything.

That's the stuff that great leaders are made of. And so the Lord knew that and He wove all of that in the fabric of who Peter was in his mother's womb. And now when Peter reaches adulthood- it's time for the Lord to shape and refine all that raw material so that God can use him and so that God will be honored by him.

And if all this raw material is not shaped by the Lord- it will be disastrous. So, there are three things have to happen to make a good godly leader:

1. God has to instill within that man the right raw material from his mother's womb.
2. God has to drag that man through the right experiences- both the fires and the waters of life- to mold and shape that raw material so it can be useful and glorious to God.
3. God has to give that man the right virtues so that this great leadership potential is always controlled by Biblical Truth.

And next time, Lord willing, we're going to see those experiences in Peter and how the Lord took him through all those various experiences that shaped him and developed the virtues that made Peter the man that God wanted him to be.

So what about you and me this morning? With the explosion of scandal after scandal that has rocked the modern Church- we need genuine true godly leaders whom God has raised up to lead the Church in the 21st Century. And these men must be of the very same caliber as those who led the Church in the 2nd Century- men who do not seek to make news for themselves- but men who seek to be found faithful- men who labor to understand the Word of God so they may live it themselves and teach it to others.

So pray that God will raise up such men like this- men who will love the Church and will not lead it astray, and if God's Hand in on you to be such a man- do not waste your life with the pleasures of sin or the cares of this life, but surrender today, and make your calling and your election sure.

Let's come and pray.

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