LEADERSHIP LESSON #12 - PETER

LESSON

There's no mistaking…Peter made a bunch of mistakes! He cut off a soldier's ear. He denied Jesus not once, not twice, but 3 times. He took his eyes off the Lord and started to sink in the water. He was constantly putting his foot in his mouth. But, he did learn from his errors of judgement and lapses of sin, and he was used mightily to share the Gospel and bring thousands to saving faith in Christ!

EXPLANATION

The "band of brothers" Jesus chose to be his first disciples were uneducated, unschooled ordinary men. They demonstrated all the human frailties that often plague us: insecurity, pride, fear, selfishness, uncertainty. But one thing they didn't lack was teachability – the desire and eagerness to learn from past errors – to put right what they'd previously done wrong; to learn from their mistakes and be led by their Master. Peter is a prime example of a radical learner. When He and John appeared before the Jewish council - the Sanhedrin – he did so as a man no longer broken by his past. The bitter tears he shed after hearing the rooster crow (Matthew 26:75) were replaced with boldness, confidence and a sense of invincibility. He had learned from his past. And he most certainly recalled the words spoken by Jesus in Matthew 16:18, "And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church and the gates of Hades will not overcome it." Peter now stood as a man on a mission – empowered by the indwelling Holy Spirit, convinced of the truth of the Gospel and dumbfounding his more "learned" listeners. No longer fickle or frail, Peter astonished the Sanhedrin with his declaration that, "Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved." (Acts 4:12). The only conclusion this elite and astonished religious group of leaders could draw was that "these men had been with Jesus." (Acts 4:13). Even when commanded not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus, Peter and John replied, "Judge for yourselves whether it is right in God's sight to obey you rather than God. For we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard." (Acts 4:19-20). Teachability was clearly a trademark of Peter!

APPLICATION

- The leader who keeps making the same mistakes makes no progress
- If you want to be a champion tomorrow, be teachable today
- To keep leading, keep learning
- Those who do not learn from history are doomed to repeat it

DIRECTION

"As a dog returns to its vomit, so a fool repeats his folly" (Proverbs 26:11)