

Be Peter, if not Better - A personal reflection on the fulfillment of the providence of Cheon Il Guk.

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It is recorded in the Bible that Jesus said to Peter, “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” (Matthew 16:18). Yet, we know that when Jesus needed him to stand by his side, Peter denied knowing Jesus and left him go the way of the cross. Needless to say, Jesus was heartbroken. The rock upon which he promised to build his church cracked in little pieces. What happened to the church Jesus wanted to build? Better yet, what happened to Peter, the rock upon which Jesus promised to build his church?

Though it is true that Peter did not serve as the rock upon which Jesus could build his church before his crucifixion, Peter nevertheless became that rock after Jesus rose from the dead and continued the work of building his church. So despite it all, Peter became that angular rock upon which the church of Christ sat. What is it that Peter did that allowed Jesus to still use him as the rock upon which he built his church? I will let you reflect on that on your own.

As we progress through the providence of Cheon Il Guk, I think each and every one of us should answer the questions: Am “I” going to be a rock that the True Parents will use to build a sturdy foundation upon which to complete the establishment of God’s Kingdom or am “I” going to be a lump of clay that will weaken the foundation? Am “I” going to be another solid link in a chain that the True Parents will use to help sinful people climb on as they leave evil or am “I” going to be the weakest link that will cause the chain to break and send those who were climbing on it back to hell? Can “I” be the Peter that the True Parents need? Can “I” be the Peter that will help the True Parents complete the providence of Cheon Il Guk?

Looking at the monumental task ahead of us, we might more than likely feel like we can’t do it. We might feel like walking away? Why? Because we might feel like we don’t have enough time, resources, and perhaps even stamina to do what is expected of us without jeopardizing our own lives, the whole thing, and the whole future.

When Peter confronted a similar situation in the courtyard of the high priest (Matthew 26:57-74), he felt that there was no way he could do it. There was no way that he could do what he was supposed to do—defend Jesus and protect the whole thing, the whole future. He caved.

We know what happened due to his caving. But, we don’t know what would have happened if he did not cave. Whatever the outcome would have been if he did not cave, it would certainly have been a much better outcome than the one that is recorded in the Bible. At that point in time, Peter was not the rock that Jesus wanted him to be. Neither was he a strong link in the chain that Jesus was building. Hence, there was a collapse. Jesus could not build his church on the rock upon which he put his hope. Consequently, he ended up going the way of the cross.

Fortunately, because of the connections of the heart that other people maintained with Jesus, Peter had a second chance of being the rock upon which Jesus could build his church. The church established after Jesus rose from the dead is certainly not exactly the one that Jesus would have built if the foundation did not crumble earlier. This time around, Peter made no excuses. He stood as the solid rock that Jesus wanted him to be. He contributed to the building of the church of Christ as Jesus knew he would.

The point here is that we should not give up and alienate ourselves because we have made a mistake. Neither should we drop our hands and feel like it is over because we feel like we missed the opportunity of a lifetime. As long as we are alive, we should know that we still have the opportunity to redeem ourselves. We should know that the Messiah will not forget us and about us. Whatever mission we have been given by heaven, we can still fulfill it. Peter gave up. He lost hope. He started to feel ashamed of himself for not admitting knowing Jesus. He started to feel bad that he did not help Jesus when he needed him the most. He felt that there was no way he could live with himself for there was no way he could make it up to Jesus. What he did not count on was that Jesus did not abandon him. Jesus did not hate him for whatever happened. Jesus came to fulfill the will of heaven. And as long as Peter lived on earth, he still had the chance to fulfill his responsibility if he could allow Jesus to work with him again. Can "I" be True Father's Peter? Can "I" be True Parents' Peter?

It doesn't matter whether we feel like we failed True Father. It doesn't matter whether we feel like there is no way we can make it up to True Father. It doesn't matter whether we feel like the call to fulfill the providence of Cheon Il Guk is too much to follow and the burden too heavy to carry. Can we be the rocks that True Mother can count on? It takes many rocks to build a strong foundation. It takes many bricks to build a wall. It takes many walls to build a house. And it takes mortar, too, of course. Can I be True Parents' Peter? Can you be True Parents' Peter? Can we altogether do better than Peter?

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