

Thought for the Day 16th July - Joan Loane

Peter was a rough diamond, don't you think? It is interesting that Jesus selected ordinary people for his disciples, not the most learned, except perhaps for Paul.

Peter was just a fisherman, but he left his boat and followed the Lord. He probably had had little schooling. In fact, many people think that the source of Mark's gospel was Peter, for whom writing may have been a challenge.

He was the one who declared, "You are the Christ" but in the next minute, he was rebuking Jesus for predicting His death and resurrection (Mark 8:27-30).

With James and John, he was present at Christ's transfiguration, and there he suggested building shelters for Jesus, Moses and Elijah (Mark 9:2-8). He just wanted to help but really had no idea.

When Jesus came walking on the water towards their boat, it was Peter who wanted to walk out to meet Him, but then he lost his nerve or was it his trust in Jesus? He started to sink (Matthew 14:29). He was impetuous but so keen!

At the Last Supper, he was so sincere in his vow never to disown Jesus, even if he had to die with him, but hours later, he declared he never knew Him! (Mark 14:66-72) Poor Peter...he broke down and wept.

And yet it was this Peter whom Jesus commissioned to shepherd His flock! (John 21:15-23)

It was Peter who stood up before the crowd to preach to the crowd at Pentecost (Acts 2) and it was Peter who responded to the vision, going to the Gentile Cornelius' house and sharing the good news of Jesus...this was an unheard of thing for a Jew to do! (Acts 10) Yet in his letter to the Galatians, Paul reprimands Peter for avoiding the company of the Gentiles to appease the Jews.

So what do we learn from all this? We see our God accepts us whoever we are. We don't have to be very well educated or talented. We also see that we can be very keen in our service to the One who died for us, but that we often fail. That does not disqualify us. We are still His!