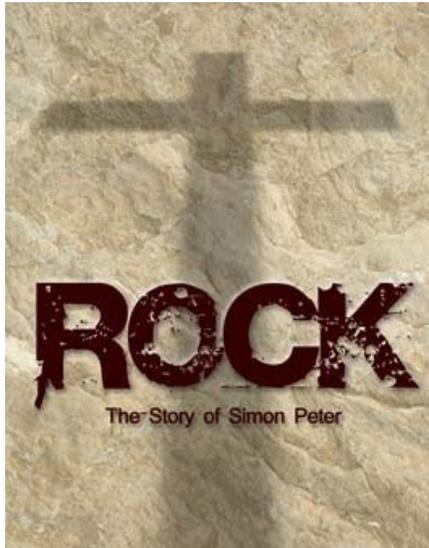


#694 Dunkirk – Peter as a Rock upon which the Church is built vs. the Church-ill on the Sand, part 2

We are examining the fact that the Church on the Rock reflects the cross-carrying Apostle Peter, while the Church-ill on the sand reflects the “before the cross” sword-carrying Apostle Peter. The “before the cross” sword-carrying Peter illustrates that Peter himself was not yet ready to carry his own cross, which is why he denied Jesus Christ.



Seemingly ironically, shortly after the event of Matthew 16:13-20 – which was Peter’s confession of Jesus as the Christ, the Son of the living God, and to which Jesus responded “*that thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church*” – Jesus severely rebukes Peter, as is seen in Matthew 16:21-25. Peter had rebuked Jesus about going to the Cross, and then Jesus “*said unto Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan.*” There is a reason for the irony of Peter being told “*that thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church*” (Matthew 16:13-20), immediately followed by (in the context of what is seen next in the passage of Matthew 16) Peter being addressed with “*Get thee behind me, Satan*” (Matthew 16:21-25). The reason for the irony of the great contrast between the two will be explained in the next Unsealing, but that will be best understood by using the remainder of this Unsealing to review the pertinent points

about Matthew 16:21-25 from Unsealing [#278](#), where we previously examined Peter’s Cross vs. Peter’s Sword. So, first the review. Here we go:

Key Understanding: *Peter as rock or sand?* It is entirely clear in scripture that there was a direct relationship between the condition of Peter’s heart when he rebuked Jesus about going to the Cross (Matthew 16:21-25), and the condition of his heart when he subsequently drew the Sword to keep Jesus from going to the Cross (John 18:10-11). In these specific situations, was Peter a *rock*, or was Peter *sand*? And was Peter reflecting the Church on *the Rock*, or was he reflecting the Church-ill on the *sand*, and why?

Matthew 16:21-25: Peter rebuking Jesus about going to the Cross

Matthew 16:21-25 (KJV) From that time forth began Jesus to shew unto his disciples, how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and raised again the third day.

22 Then Peter took him, and began to rebuke him, saying, Be it far from thee, Lord: this shall not be unto thee.

23 But he turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men.

24 Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.

25 *For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it.*

John 18:10-11: Peter drawing the Sword to keep Jesus from going to the Cross

John 18:10-11 (KJV) Then Simon Peter having a sword drew it, and smote the high priest's servant, and cut off his right ear. The servant's name was Malchus.

11 Then said Jesus unto Peter, Put up thy sword into the sheath: the cup which my Father hath given me, shall I not drink it?

Peter's Sword protects the "before the cross" Peters of the Church from going to the Cross, constructs a different gospel that doesn't require them to take up their crosses, and in fact allows them to bear the Sword in the name of the Cross.

It is clear that there was a direct relationship between the condition of Peter's heart when he drew the Sword (John 18:10-11), and his willingness to deny Jesus Christ (John 18:17, 25-27). Jesus had warned Peter of this (John 13:37-38), knowing that Peter himself was not spiritually ready for his own cross. Was Peter a *rock* at this time, or was Peter like the Church-ill on the *sand*?

John 13:37-38: Peter would draw the Sword for Jesus, but not go to the Cross for Jesus

John 13:37-38 (KJV) Peter said unto him, Lord, why cannot I follow thee now? I will lay down my life for thy sake.

38 Jesus answered him, Wilt thou lay down thy life for my sake? Verily, verily, I say unto thee, The cock shall not crow, till thou hast denied me thrice.

John 18:25-27: Peter denied Jesus Christ because the condition of his heart was that of drawing the Sword for Jesus, not carrying his Cross for Jesus

John 18:25-27 (KJV) And Simon Peter stood and warmed himself. They said therefore unto him, Art not thou also one of his disciples? He denied it, and said, I am not. [This was Peter's second denial. Peter's first denial is seen in John 18:17.]

26 One of the servants of the high priest, being his kinsman whose ear Peter cut off, saith, Did not I see thee in the garden with him?

27 Peter then denied again [Peter's third denial]: and immediately the cock crew.



The Denial of Peter by Gerard (Gerrit) van Honthorst

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