

St. Paul: Dear Lord, Paul was such a different personality than Peter! They had their differences. Paul confronted Peter in public and called him a hypocrite...acting differently when with the circumcised as distinct from his meetings with the uncircumcised...Quite a happening! We don't know how Peter, the first Pope, felt about that.

Paul was passionate, whether as a loyal Jewish leader, condoning and witnessing the murder of Christians, in particular the stoning of Stephen the first martyr... Or, having experienced the traumatic, heart rending encounter with the Risen wounded Jesus on the road to Damascus..."Why are you persecuting me?" Everything was now changed...Paul was thrown off his horse and became blind until he could consider the truth...Now he became a fearless, passionate disciple of this Crucified and Risen Jesus. He surrendered his life to the Gospel and the Kingdom of Jesus, and ultimately accepted martyrdom. He had given his heart for that Gospel and for that Crucified and Risen Jesus.

Paul also left us multiple writings as a guide to our walk of faith. Perhaps he is treasured, above all, for his beautiful hymn of Love: "Love is patient, love is kind, it is not rude; it is not self-seeking...it keeps no record of wrongs... If I have faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I have nothing...Now these three remain, Faith, Hope, and Love, but the greatest of these is Love.

Questions: What is the quality of my love? How does it modify my life? Do I need to be thrown off my horse? Do we? When I speak the truth, do I do it with love as Paul challenge us to do? OR Do I do it with anger or hurt?

St. Peter: Dear Lord, you had a special love for Peter. You called him your 'Rock' as the foundation of your new and glorious Church. Yet, you were not afraid to reprimand him right after you had called him 'Rock'. You now called him 'a Satan', 'a stumbling block' to your kingdom.

Later, when the storm clouds were gathering, when the end was in sight, you invited your 12 to a last meal. There were heavy feelings and emotions in that room. It was a very intimate time with them. You now called them by a new name, 'friends', no longer servants; Yet knowing the betrayal, the denial to come. You still prayer for Peter: 'Satan has desired to lift you, but I have prayed for you...and you are to confirm the brothers. Peter swore he would die for you, and when you warned him that, in a few hours, he would deny you. He would have none of it.

You took him and John and James, your special three, into the garden for consolation and support, as you now experienced the dark and fearful side of our human nature...fear, depression, anxiety...so badly that you asked your Father 'Abba' to stop it all. You sweated blood and were in agony, so that you went to Peter and the others for comfort...they were asleep!...'could you not watch one hour m...the cock crowed'...There was that look...Was it disappointment...sure...'I told you so' Or, was it forgiveness, even love?

Peter speaks: O, Lord was Judas even more courageous? More dignified?...than me! In a way I was worse. Judas thought that you, the Master, could not forgive him; or, in reality, he could not forgive himself.

Somehow, I feel a flicker of hope in my heart. I remember again that glorious moment of Transfiguration with Him on that sacred mountain. The master I know always forgives...But I am scared. I ran to the upper room and locked the door...what they did to Jesus, they could do to us...All the other locked themselves in also...no one was talking; no one was eating...was it all an illusion?...is it all over now? And the, the room is bathed in light...As Jesus glides through the door, he shows his glorious, healing wounds. We thought he would say, 'I am so disappointed in you, especially you, Peter. Obviously, I made bad choices. I will have to get new and more courageous and faithful disciples...But...He did not say that... He said, " Peace be to

you." That meant, 'You are forgiven. You are perfect now to be my disciples, to proclaim and bring about my kingdom, my Church. Conscious of their own sins, but also the love, the compassion, and the mercy of the Master...He gave them back their roles. That was a healing, dignity-restoring, loving gif. Each was now filled with the Holy Spirit, and gave their lives to establish his Kingdom. All he wanted to know from Peter...and us...Do you love me, Do you love me, Do you love me...

Peter was hurt, but that brought about total healing. Now, indeed, 'a terrible beauty is born.'" Feed my lambs. Feed my sheep, follow me.