

# **THE STORY OF PETER**

## **And**

# **THE STORY OF RUTH**

Aunt Hattie's Bible Stories

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by

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### **CHAPTER THREE**

#### **PETER GETS WET**

PETER SEEMS to have been the spokesman and the leader of the group. He was always ready to do or say something however wise or unwise it might be. I'll tell you of several such times.

One day Jesus and His disciples were walking along a highway in Capernaum, followed as usual, by a great throng of people. In the crowd was a woman who had a very serious disease which she believed Jesus could heal.

Quietly she made her way through the crowd until she was just behind Him. Then, stooping clown, she touched the hem of His garment and immediately she was healed.

Jesus turned around and said, "Who touched me?" No one said a word for a moment and then Peter said, "Why, Master, the crowds have been pushing and jostling us ever since we came out this morning, and now You ask, Who touched Me?"

"Oh," said Jesus, but that isn't what He meant "I know that someone touched Me in faith for I felt power depart from Me."

Hearing these words the woman came trembling and said, before them all, that she had touched His garment and had been made well.

Aren't we glad that Peter was along to ask Jesus about it and hear His answer?

Then another day, when Jesus had miraculously fed five thousand people in a desert place, He told the disciples to get into the boats and go back across the lake while He went alone into the mountain to pray.

The disciples had not gone very far when a bad storm came up and it became dark. The wind whipped the waves and made the boat rock. How those experienced fishermen labored to keep the boat right side up! Hour after hour they fought desperately and then, across the water they saw a Man coming to them walking right on top of those black, turbulent waves.

The disciples were frightened and cried out in fear. Then they heard a familiar voice and Jesus said, **“Be of good cheer; it is I; do not be afraid.”**

Peter called out, “Lord, if it is really You, let me walk on the water to meet You.”

And Jesus answered, “Peter, come along.”

I imagine I can see impetuous Peter jump right over the side of the boat onto the tossing waves, upheld by the power of the Lord Jesus Christ. Peter walked easily as long as he kept his eyes upon Jesus, but when the wind blew and the waters lashed his feet, he looked down, was terrified and began to sink. In despair he cried, **“Lord, save me!”**

Jesus stretched out His hand and caught Peter, saying, “Oh, Peter, what is the matter? Where is your faith in Me? Why did you doubt?”

When the Lord and Peter got into the boat the storm was over.

So many times the question is asked, “Why did Peter want to go to Jesus on the water?”

When I was a little girl we lived on an acreage not far from town. My father often drove to town in the lumber wagon. From our kitchen window we could see away down the road to the one-span bridge across the creek. When it was time for father to return, my sister and I would watch for the team to come onto the bridge. Then we would ask mother if we could go to meet father, and away we would run as fast as our legs would carry us.

Father used to stop the team when we reached him, throw the lines around the whip stock, and then reach down with both strong hands and pull us up beside him onto the spring seat. How we nestled close up to him! What joy to be with our loving father!

I think that was something the way it was with Peter. When he saw the Lord coming to him on the water, his love for Him was so; great that he couldn't wait for Him to come to the boat, but wanted to go to meet Him, and he did.

Another time when Jesus was in Capernaum, at Peter's home, the tax collectors came.

He said, “Peter, go down to the Sea (Galilee) and cast your hook and line into the water and pull in the first fish that bites. Open the fish's mouth and you will find a piece of money in it, enough to pay My Temple tax and yours, too.”

I think perhaps Peter went away to do Christ's bidding with a chuckle, saying to himself, "If these collectors only realized of whom they were asking tribute, wouldn't they be embarrassed?"

And, sure enough, Peter caught the fish with the money in its mouth and the taxes were paid.

Was it not gracious of Jesus to include Peter and pay his taxes, too?

We can see how large a place Peter held among the disciples of Jesus.

**~ end of chapter 3 ~**

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