“Simon Peter, a Servant And Apostle of Jesus Christ”
2 Pet. 1:1

Introduction:
A. Simon Peter - a colorful and paradoxical character.
   1. Lord could bless then rebuke almost in same breath. (Matt. 16:13-23).
   2. Peter could say, “Even if I have to die with You, I will not deny You!” and “I do not know the Man” -- all in the same night.

B. Simon Peter - an interesting and inspirational character because of:
   1. His Personal background.
   2. His Personality Traits.
   3. His Prominent positions.

Discussion:
I. Simon Peter's Personal Background.
A. His family background.
   1. Son of Jonah [John]. (Matt. 16:17; John 1:42)
   2. Brother of Andrew. (John 1:40)
   3. A married man. (Matt. 8:14; I Cor. 9:5).

B. His ethnic background.
   1. A Jew through and through.

C. His religious background.
   1. Jewish

D. His occupational background.
   1. A fisherman. (Matt. 4:18-20)

II. Simon Peter's Personality Traits.
A. Quick spoken.
   2. Sometimes spoke without thinking. (Mark 9:5,6; Luke 9:33)

B. Paradoxical.
   1. With a few hours he said following:
      a. “I will lay down my life for Your sake”. (John 13:38)
      c. “Even if all are made to stumble because of You, I will never be made to stumble.” (Matt. 26:33)
      d. “Even if I have to die with You, I will not deny You” (Matt. 26:35)
      e. “I do not know the Man!” (Matt. 26:72, 74).
   2. Within a few hours he did the following:
      a. Cut off a man’s ear trying to defend Jesus. (John 18:10).
      b. Cursed and swore at those to indentified him with Jesus. (Mk. 14:71).
   3. He was first to preach to gentiles, then later would not eat with them. (Acts 10; Gal. 2:14ff).

C. “A stone” (John 1:42; cf. Matt. 16:18)
   1. Jesus could see real strength in this paradoxical character.
   2. Peter became a real rock of strength in early church.
      a. His preaching. (Acts 2,3)
      b. His firmness. (Acts 4:19,20; 5:29)
      c. His zeal. (Acts 9:32)
      d. His acceptance of correction. (cf. 2 Pet. 3:15)

III. Simon Peter’s Prominent Positions.
B. “A fellow elder” (1 Peter 5:1).
   1. Not a “presiding” or “chief” elders, but “fellow elder”.
   2. Not “universal” elder or bishop. (An interesting letter from Gregory, the Great [Bishop on Rome] to John, the Faster [Bishop of Constantinople] in 588 A.D. is quoted Church History for Busy People. by George Klingman. pp. 14-20)

Conclusion:
A. Peter was a great apostle, preacher and elder, but he was never pope.
B. Peter was a great man whose mistakes are apparent, but rebounded from them well.