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Peter's Confusion

an adult version of the story from

[Family Story Bible](#)

Northstone, 1996, p.210

based on Mark 8:27-33, Matthew 16:13-20, Luke 9:18-20

by Ralph Milton

Peter was mixed up. He had been following Jesus for many days. Peter had listened hard, but it just didn't compute.

Jesus often sat with the disciples and talked to them about God. It was like going to school.

Peter didn't really like this kind of school. "I feel so stupid," he told Jesus one day. "You explain things. Everybody else knows what you mean. But I don't!"

"What don't you understand, Peter?" asked Jesus.

"Well, I've been trying to figure out who you are. Are you a prophet? Are you a teacher? Are you a military leader?"

"Let's see what the others think," said Jesus. Jesus asked the disciples to sit with him under an olive tree.

"Now tell me," said Jesus. "When you are talking to the people who gather around – who do they think I am?"

"Some say you are John the Baptist."

"I heard someone say, 'Jesus is really the prophet Elijah come back to life.'"

"And I've heard people say you are the prophet Jeremiah." Each of the disciples had heard something different.

Jesus was laughing. "Well, I can't be all those people. Who do you think I am?"

Peter's face lit up. "I know. I know. You are the Christ. You are the Messiah. You are the one God is sending to save us all."

The little group sat in stunned silence. Then the questions began to tumble out. Would Jesus live in a big palace? Would he have soldiers to fight for him?

"No, no!" said Jesus. "That's not the kind of Messiah God wants me to be. Listen, friends. It is going to be very hard for all of us. God's Messiah will suffer at the hands of people in power. I will most likely be killed when people find out who I am."

"No way!" yelled Peter. "That won't happen to you. No way!"

"Peter!" Jesus sounded angry. "When you talk like that, you are Satan, the enemy. Get away from me."

Poor Peter. Now he was really mixed up. Jesus took Peter's hand.

"It will be very hard for you, my friends." Jesus spoke very softly. "There's no money in it for you. No power. You won't be popular. People will hate you. Some people will try to hurt you. Some of you will be killed.

"God's power is the power of love. So as the Messiah, I have no power except love. And that's the power you have too. If we choose to act on God's behalf, the only power we have is the power of love."

Peter was still mixed up. It went against anything he had ever heard about the Messiah. The Messiah should be strong, respected, should knock out the bad guys and do neat things for the good people.

But the confusion didn't seem to matter as much.

Peter didn't understand. But Peter believed.

And he felt strong inside. Strong as a rock.

**Ralph Milton has written a number of books,
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