

## And Peter Followed Afar Off

Linville Dunaway, Corinth Christian Church

**Luke 22:54**, "Then took they him, and led him, and brought him into the high priest's house. And Peter followed afar off."

This is a sad picture of Peter as he follows the Lord, but not walking with him. Here is the man who had, a short time before, promised that he would go with the Lord to prison, or to death. Now he is fearfully following a great distance behind. While he is concerned about the events that are happening and wants to know about Jesus, he does not want to be at his side at the moment because he is fearful of what might happen.

As the story unfolds, we see Peter make mistake after mistake. He is not led by the Lord, but ruled by his fear. His fear of the soldiers overrules the love that he has for the Lord. He discovers that following afar off is not the same as walking with Jesus. Even with Peter's example it seems that many today are still trying to follow afar off. They want to go to heaven and are not

"bad" people, but are not willing to walk by the side of the Master.

He that will walk by the side of Jesus will be seen as a follower of his and will be examined by men as such a person. As Peter didn't wish to be recognized as a disciple of Christ, some don't wish to be looked at according to the standard of Jesus. If a man is known as a Christian, he is expected by the world, and the Lord, to act as Jesus did, both in word and deed. At times the lifestyle and deeds do not reflect the teachings of Christ in a person's life. That is when a person doesn't want his "Religion" to be on display.

When Peter was apart from Christ, he was his own counselor. That didn't turn out good for him, no more than it will for you, or me. Walking close to the Lord is the only way to know his will and what he would have us to do. When we are afar from someone we can not hear, or see, like we can up close. This is true both in the physical and in the spiritual world. Whether we will, or not, depends on whether we have more faith than fear.

**John 18:15-17**, "And Simon Peter followed Jesus, and so did another disciple: that disciple was known unto the high

priest, and went in with Jesus into the palace of the high priest. But Peter stood at the door without. Then went out that other disciple, which was known unto the high priest, and spake unto her that kept the door, and brought in Peter. Then saith the damsel that kept the door unto Peter, Art not thou also one of this man's disciples? He saith, I am not." Here we see that John came in even though he was known as a disciple of Jesus. He didn't deny the Lord in the face of the same crowd that caused Peter so much fear.

It is up to each of us to decide about our walk with God. Do we really believe the scriptures enough to follow the commands of the Lord? If so we are not ashamed to be seen as a child of God. We are not trying to hide our faith and our reverence for the Lord when we are walking close to him. If we are going to help someone to come to the Lord we have to be ready to tell them about Jesus and what he has done for us. If we are close to God we are not ashamed to pray, witness, and to worship before anyone. There were probably times when the Lord was ashamed of me, but I've never been ashamed of him.

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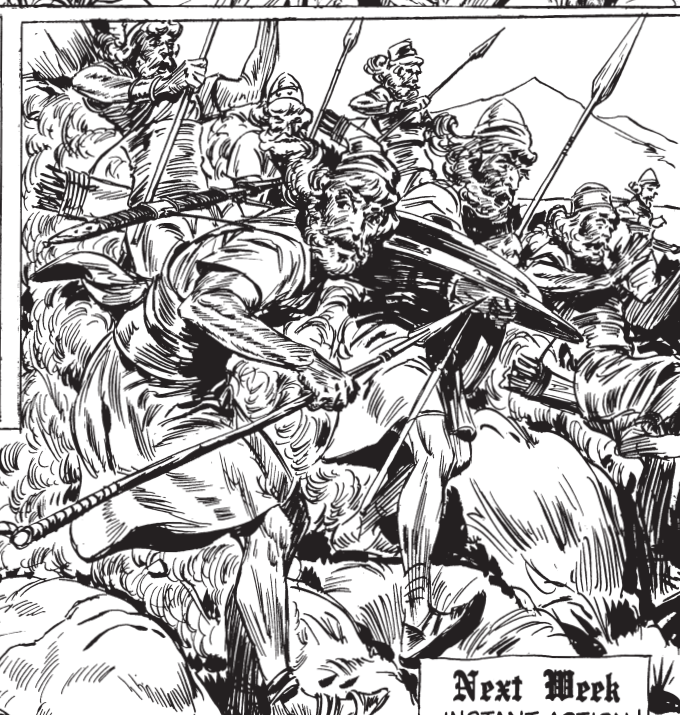
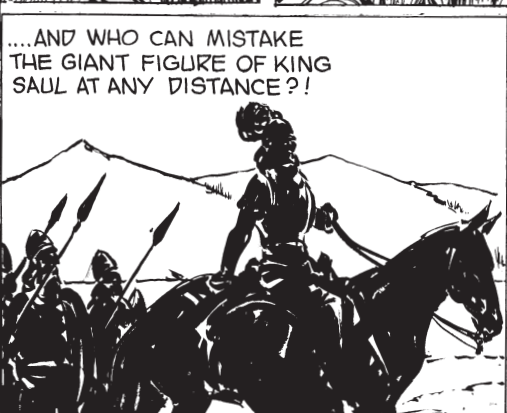
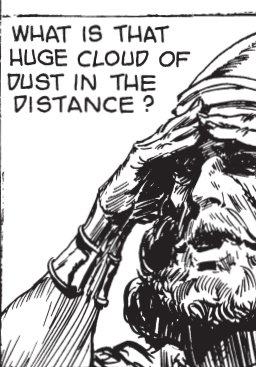
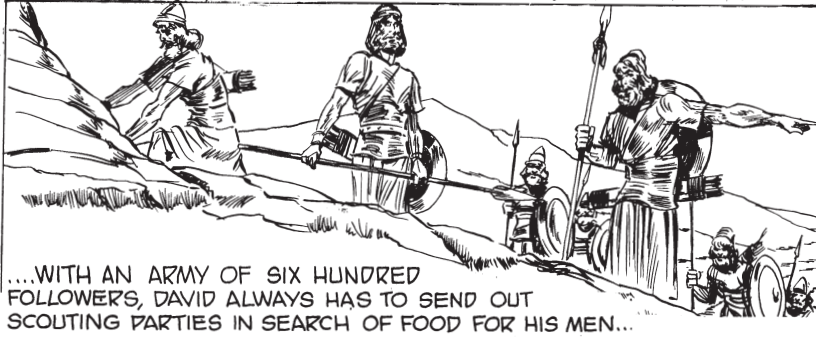
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