

SAINT PETER

In biblical times, when Jesus wandered the Earth, he didn't always travel with all of his disciples. One morning, when he was walking with St. Peter alone, they came into a beautiful wide valley. As was their wont, Christ was preaching and telling parables, and Peter was listening and taking notes. But, as the midday approached, the holy scribe found that his concentration was failing. It was a long time since breakfast and he was hungry.

The Lord knew full well what was troubling his favourite apostle, and said to him "Peter, do you see that farmhouse, and the smoke from its chimney? Do you not think that it appears that there is something good cooking? Go over and ask if they can spare something, maybe a cake, for you and for me, because we have travelled far and are hungry."

Peter, who could smell the cakes baking didn't need telling twice. He quickly ran over to the farm, where he found the lady of the house in the kitchen. She was very generous, and had perhaps baked too much, so instead of two cakes, she gave him three. This pleased the apostle who was very hungry, and thought to keep the extra cake for himself.

With one cake in each hand, and a third hidden under his arm, he returned to the Lord and showed him the two cakes. Of course, Jesus knew about the third cake under Peter's arm, but he didn't say anything. He ate one cake, and Peter ate the other. Then, after they had finished both delicious cakes, the Lord said to his disciple "Peter, our heavenly father has again provided for us. We should thank him, and while he has provided especially well today, we should pray with open arms."

Jesus then knelt on the ground, facing Peter, spread his arms wide and started to pray. Peter had no choice but to follow his master's example. When he did so, his hidden treasure fell softly to the ground, and Jesus smiled. Peter was lost for words, and his face turned bright red with shame...

...and the same will happen to you, my child, if you try to hide the things which you have done.