

### What Can We Learn From Peter? (Part 1)

<u>Matthew 4:19</u>: (KJV) <sup>19</sup>And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men. <sup>20</sup>And they straightway left their nets, and followed him.

Of all the Apostles, Peter is the one who is most exposed to us. His background is clear, his strengths and weaknesses are obvious, and his faults are plain. It is through the viewing of his life that so many of us find hope - for we see in the Apostle Peter a simple man, who with great faith met with countless adversities and by God's grace was not only forgiven for his failings, but was one of the twelve foundation pillars of the true church. Stay with us as we begin to tell the story of Peter - the man - the disciple - the leader.

### Did Jesus call Simon Peter to follow him right at the start?

# This account of Simon's first encounter with Jesus happened shortly after Jesus came back from his 40 days of fasting and praying:

John 1:35-42: (KJV) <sup>35</sup>Again the next day after John stood, and two of his disciples; <sup>36</sup>And looking upon Jesus as he walked, he saith, Behold the Lamb of God! <sup>37</sup>And the two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus...<sup>40</sup>One of the two which heard John speak, and followed him, was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. <sup>41</sup>He first findeth his own brother Simon, and saith unto him, We have found the Messias, which is, being interpreted, the Christ. <sup>42</sup>And he brought him to Jesus. And when Jesus beheld him, he said, Thou art Simon the son of Jona: thou shalt be called Cephas, which is by interpretation, A stone.

- Simon's family had a heart for God.
- Jesus' message to Simon: I know who you are and who you can become.
- Jesus did not here invite Simon to follow him, he simply "saw" him for what he could be.

### (I))Background, Life of the Apostle Peter, Rick Steves, Mosaic Television

• The impression is often given that Peter has nothing and that at that point it is easy to follow Jesus. That's really an anachronstic view of the world in which Simon Peter lives. He lives in Galilee which is a rich region. The fields at the right time of year are absolutely beautiful. The fishing business on the Sea of Galilee is a very stable business. People don't necessarily become rich, but you can live well.

## Simon's second encounter with Jesus, likely about six months to a year after his baptism:

<u>Mark 1:14-20</u> (NRSV) and <u>Matthew 4:12</u> and <u>Matthew 4:22</u>: (NRSV) <sup>12</sup>Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. <sup>13</sup>He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea,...<sup>17</sup>From that time Jesus began to proclaim, Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near. <sup>18</sup>As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. <sup>19</sup>And he said to them, Follow me, and I will make you fish for people. <sup>20</sup>Immediately they left their nets and followed him. <sup>21</sup>As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. <sup>22</sup>Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him.

• Jesus returns to Galilee without a formal following yet in place.



- Here he begins to preach in earnest the necessary repentance for the kingdom.
- Jesus' message to Simon: I know you, follow me for true satisfaction.

So, was this the moment when Peter truly follows Jesus?



#### What would it have been like to be an "up close and personal" follower of Jesus?

A few days after the previous "calling," Jesus healed Simon's mother-in-law. See the CQ Rewind Full Edition Bonus Material for details.

(Source: Jamison, Fausset and Brown) That these calls were all distinct and *progressive* seems quite plain.

Sometimes we are drawn to Jesus in small, progressive steps as well.

#### Simon's third recorded encounter with Jesus:

Luke 5:1-11: (NASB) <sup>1</sup>Now it happened that while the crowd was pressing around him and listening to the word of God, he was standing by the lake of Gennesaret; <sup>2</sup>and he saw two boats lying at the edge of the lake; but the fishermen had gotten out of them and were washing their nets. <sup>3</sup>And he got into one of the boats, which was Simon's, and asked him to put out a little way from the land. And he sat down and began teaching the people from the



boat. <sup>4</sup>When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch.

## Perhaps there is a deeper meaning spoken here by Jesus? The deep waters would require more faith.

<sup>5</sup>Simon answered and said, Master, we worked hard all night and caught nothing, but I will do as You say and let down the nets. <sup>6</sup>When they had done this, they enclosed a great quantity of fish, and their nets began to break; <sup>7</sup>so they signaled to their partners in the other boat for them to come and help them. And they came and filled both of the boats, so that they began to sink.



# Imagine the bewilderment as they called for help - this was impossible!

<sup>8</sup>But when Simon Peter saw that, he fell down at Jesus' feet, saying, Go away from me Lord, for I am a sinful man, O Lord! <sup>9</sup>For amazement had seized him and all his companions because of the catch of fish which they had taken; <sup>10</sup>and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, Do not fear, from now on you will be catching men. <sup>11</sup>When they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed him.

How often have we said, "Get away from me, Lord, I'm too sinful."

Jesus' message to Simon was: I know you, you are willing to follow, you have seen many miraculous events occur from the healing of the sick to the casting out of demonic influence. Now as you follow me, your own sin seems overwhelming and unconquerable. But I say to you, as you follow me and trust in me, you can now do it without fear, for with my strength you will become fearless fishers of men.

Simon Peter had the guts to drop everything and follow him. Do we have that same courage?

(1))Observations - Life of the Apostle Peter, *Rick Steves, Mosaic Television* 

- I think that he has a lot to say about how simple, ordinary people in ordinary vocations can be called to do very extraordinary things.
- We know more about Peter than any of the twelve...

Now Simon begins to live life as a follower. He observes Jesus doing many things.

Jesus teaching and healing with authority:

Proverbs 3:26: (NIV) for the LORD will be your confidence and will keep your foot from being snared.

The life of Peter is about stepping out in faith.

<u>Mark 1:22</u>: (NASB) They were amazed at his teaching; for he was teaching them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.

#### Jesus healing on the Sabbath:

<u>Mark 3:1-2</u>: (NASB) <sup>1</sup>He entered again into a synagogue; and a man was there whose hand was withered. <sup>2</sup>They were watching him to see if he would heal him on the Sabbath, so that they might accuse him.



#### Jesus eating with sinners and calling Matthew:

<u>Matthew 9:9-10</u>: (NASB) <sup>9</sup>As Jesus went on from there, he saw a man called Matthew, sitting in the tax collector's booth; and he said<sup>\*</sup> to him, Follow me! And he got up and followed him. <sup>10</sup>Then it happened that as Jesus was reclining at the table in the house, behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and were dining with Jesus and his disciples.

#### So, how does Simon Peter end up being an Apostle?

First, one more observation that he would have seen as a follower:

#### Jesus dealing with multitudes:

<u>Mark 3:7-12</u>: (NASB) <sup>7</sup>Jesus withdrew to the sea with his disciples; and a great multitude from Galilee followed; and also from Judea, <sup>8</sup>and from Jerusalem, and from Idumea, and beyond the Jordan, and the vicinity of Tyre and Sidon, a great number of people heard of all that he was doing and came to him. <sup>9</sup>And he told his disciples that a boat should stand ready for him because of the crowd, so that they would not crowd him; <sup>10</sup>for he had healed many, with the result that all those who had afflictions pressed around him in order to touch him. <sup>11</sup>Whenever the unclean spirits saw him, they would fall down before him and shout, You are the Son of God! <sup>12</sup>And he earnestly warned them not to tell who he was.

In all these things, Simon Peter would have begun to see the magnitude of the work of Jesus. So far, there seems to be no one that intimidates Jesus, nothing that he cannot do, and no circumstance that he cannot conquer! How personally overwhelming this must have been! What a far cry from the life of a fisherman!

(1))What he did right, keep following, *Stuart Briscoe* 

• The one thing Jesus told him to do was keep on following. Simon Peter kept putting his foot in it, and he kept stumbling, and he kept saying the wrong things and doing the wrong things and making the wrong decisions. But he kept on picking himself up and kept on following. And Jesus said, you come to me, keep on following, and I'll make you.

If we fall and don't get up, it is pride and embarrassment that keep us down.

Apostles were given special recognition and responsibilities. We are not Apostles; there were only twelve specific individuals that Jesus called by name. The masses that followed after him were called disciples. The Apostles were first called to be disciples.

#### Jesus appoints the twelve:

Luke 6:12-13: (NRSV) <sup>12</sup>Now during those days he went out to the mountain to pray; and he spent the night in prayer to God. <sup>13</sup>And when day came, he called his disciples and chose twelve of them, whom he also named apostles:

Choosing the twelve was a prayerful decision.

<u>Matthew 14:23</u>: And when he had sent the multitudes away, he went up into a mountain apart to pray: and when the evening was come, he was there alone.

Jesus' habit was to be immersed in prayer at important times in his life, and it should be in ours as well.



#### His instruction to us - to Peter - was to do what he did...pray in solitude:

<u>Matthew 6:6</u>: But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee.

#### And now the life-changing announcement:

<u>Mark 3:14-19</u>: (NRSV) <sup>14</sup>And he appointed twelve, whom he also named apostles, to be with him, and to be sent out to proclaim the message, <sup>15</sup>and to have authority to cast out demons. <sup>16</sup>So he appointed the twelve: Simon (to whom he gave the name Peter); <sup>17</sup>James son of Zebedee and John the brother of James (to whom he gave the name Boanerges, that is, Sons of Thunder); <sup>18</sup>and Andrew, and Philip, and Bartholomew, and Matthew, and Thomas, and James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus, and Simon the Cananaean, <sup>19</sup>and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him.

The Apostles were appointed to specific works:

- to be with Jesus,
- to be sent out to proclaim the message, and
- to have authority to cast out demons.

For the beatitudes, loving your enemies and more, please see CQ Rewind Full Edition Bonus Material!

In this segment, we will focus on teachings of Jesus that would have had an extraordinary effect on Simon Peter. First, a reminder about what it was that he was walking away from to follow Jesus:

(I))Galilee home, Life of the Apostle Peter, Rick Steves, Mosaic Television

• We know Peter was married because of the reference to his mother-in-law. He had a home you can still visit in the city of Capernaum in a kind of condominium complex where Simon and his extended family lived. He had a business there which kept him above the poverty level. So while there are struggles economically in Galilee, there was a great deal to give up to follow Jesus.



#### How would the following events have affected Peter, your average hard-working Mediterranean Jew?

#### Jesus teaches them to pray:

<u>Matthew 6:7-15</u>: (ASV) <sup>7</sup>And in praying use not vain repetitions, as the Gentiles do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking. <sup>8</sup>Be not therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him. <sup>9</sup>After this manner therefore pray ye. Our Father who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. <sup>10</sup>Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, as in heaven, so on earth. <sup>11</sup>Give

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us this day our daily bread. <sup>12</sup>And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. <sup>13</sup>And bring us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. <sup>14</sup>For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. <sup>15</sup>But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

Prayer should not be intimidating. Jesus gave us a template of how to approach the Heavenly Father.

#### Jesus commends the faith of the Roman (not Jewish!) Centurion:

<u>Matthew 8:5-10</u>: (ASV) <sup>5</sup>And when he was entered into Capernaum, there came unto him a centurion, beseeching him, <sup>6</sup>and saying, Lord, my servant lieth in the house sick of the palsy, grievously tormented. <sup>7</sup>And he saith unto him, I will come and heal him. <sup>8</sup>And the centurion answered and said, Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldest come under my roof; but only say the word, and my servant shall be healed. <sup>9</sup>For I also am a man under authority, having under myself soldiers: and I say to this one, Go, and he goeth; and to another, Come, and he cometh; and to my servant, Do this, and he doeth it. <sup>10</sup>And when Jesus heard it, he marveled, and said to them that followed, Verily I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel.

Jesus just said the word and the healing took place remotely! What kind of impression would this have made on Peter? What about the Jewish witnesses who did not have as great of faith as this Centurion?

#### Jesus proclaims his true family ties:

Luke 8:19-21: (ASV)<sup>19</sup>And there came to him his mother and brethren, and they could not come at him for the crowd. <sup>20</sup>And it was told him, Thy mother and thy brethren stand without, desiring to see thee. <sup>21</sup>But he answered and said unto them, My mother and my brethren are these that hear the word of God, and do it.

Jesus raised the bar to what family truly is. The family of followers of Christ was a higher standard. Peter, as the spokesman for the twelve, would have had to realize he was part of this new and higher family.

#### The commissioning of the twelve:

<u>Mark 6:7-13</u>: (ASV) <sup>7</sup>And he calleth unto him the twelve, and began to send them forth by two and two; and he gave them authority over the unclean spirits; <sup>8</sup>and he charged them that they should take nothing for their journey, save a staff only; no bread, no wallet, no money in their purse; <sup>9</sup>but to go shod with sandals: and, said he, put not on two coats. <sup>10</sup>And he said unto them, Wheresoever ye enter into a house, there abide till ye depart thence. <sup>11</sup>And whatsoever place shall not receive you, and they hear you not, as ye go forth thence, shake off the dust that is under your feet for a testimony unto them. <sup>12</sup>And they went out, and preached that men should repent. <sup>13</sup>And they cast out many demons, and anointed with oil many that were sick, and healed them.

They left with no resources because it was a journey of faith. These were all object lessons Peter learned along the way. Sometimes we harshly judge Peter for his failings, but **we also** fail miserably.

It was soon after this that John the Baptist is beheaded. This changes some things in the ministry of Jesus.



#### What do you suppose it would have been like to walk on water?

After the death of John the Baptist:

- 1. The return of the Apostles: Mark 6:30-31
- 2. The feeding of the 5,000: <u>Mark 6:32-44</u>

3. Jesus departs to pray after he lost his friend and cousin, John the Baptist: <u>Mark 6:45-47</u>

<u>Matthew 14:22-33</u>: (NASB) <sup>22</sup>Immediately he made the disciples get into the boat and go ahead of him to the other side, while he sent the crowds away. <sup>23</sup>After he had sent the crowds away, he went up on the mountain by himself to pray; and when it was evening, he was there alone.

Jesus orchestrated to be by himself. He needed time to refocus and is praying. This reminds us of Moses, who also went to the mountain. Jesus would have considered much in prayer - John's beheading, the miracle of feeding the 5,000, all of his followers and the work yet left to do...

<sup>24</sup>But the boat was already a long distance from the land, battered by the waves; for the wind was contrary. <u>Mark 6:48</u>: (NASB) <sup>48</sup>Seeing them straining at the oars, for the wind was against them, at about the fourth watch of the night he came to them, walking on the sea; and he intended to pass by them.

Jesus could see the disciples from on the mountain, from his own higher perspective, straining at the oars against the wind. They would have been 3-4 miles away (John 6:19). The fourth watch would have been between 3 to 6 a.m.

<sup>25</sup>And in the fourth watch of the night he came to them, walking on the sea. <sup>26</sup>When the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, and said, It is a ghost! And they cried out in fear. <sup>27</sup>But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid.

This is the individual they were following! What a comfort those words would have been!

Jesus' reassurance was similar to what he would give them the last night of his life:

John 16:33: (NASB) These things I have spoken to you, so that in me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world.

In Bible symbology, the restless seas symbolize the restless masses of humanity. So when Jesus says he has overcome the world and he walks on water, it shows that he walks above the restless masses.

<sup>28</sup>Peter said to him, Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water. <sup>29</sup>And he said, Come! And Peter got out of the boat, and walked on the water and came toward Jesus.

What an amazing amount of faith that would have taken! Notice Peter does not put himself out on the water - but he does present a condition to Jesus that may not be in his best personal interest: IF it is YOU, THEN COMMAND ME to come out onto the water. Remember the conditions were bad with waves and wind in the middle of a storm. Peter knew how to navigate while in the



boat, but not how to navigate out of the boat. He put himself in great danger but it was faith in action. His request was to come to Jesus.

<sup>30</sup>But seeing the wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, Lord, save me!

He lost focus! Presumably he was not close enough to the boat to turn back.

## "Walk on the Water," (First Verse) Britt Nicole

You look around It's staring back at you Another wave of doubt Will it pull you under You wonder

What if I'm overtaken What if I never make it What if no one's there? Will you hear my prayer?

When you take that first step Into the unknown You know that he won't let you go

Chorus: So what are you waiting for? What do you have to lose? Your insecurities try to alter you

You know you're made for more So don't be afraid to move Your faith is all It takes and you can Walk on the water too

<sup>31</sup>Immediately Jesus stretched out his hand and took hold of him, and said to him, **You of** *little faith*, why did you doubt?

Jesus stretches out his hand to save him. Wouldn't you love to just live in faith without our doubts and second thoughts?

<sup>32</sup>When they got into the boat, the wind stopped. <sup>33</sup>And those who were in the boat worshiped him, saying, You are certainly God's Son!

<u>Isaiah 26:3-4</u>: (KJV) <sup>3</sup>Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee. <sup>4</sup>Trust ye in the LORD for ever: for in the LORD JEHOVAH is everlasting strength:

#### So, after all this, do you think that Peter really "gets it"?

#### Peter's confession of Jesus:

<u>Matthew 16:13-20</u>: (ASV) <sup>13</sup>Now when Jesus came into the parts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, Who do men say that the Son of man is? <sup>14</sup>And they said, Some say John the Baptist; some, Elijah; and others, Jeremiah, or one of the prophets. <sup>15</sup>He saith unto them, But who say ye that I am? <sup>16</sup>And Simon Peter answered and said, <u>Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God</u>.

So, Peter reveals a clear and world-changing truth. How does Jesus respond?



<sup>17</sup>And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Bar-Jonah: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father who is in heaven. <sup>18</sup>And I also say unto

thee, that thou art **Peter** <**4074**>, and upon this rock <**4073**> I will build my church; and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.

THE NEW SERIALISTICS OF THE BIRL MARKET OF THE BIRL MARKET The name "Peter" means "rock" and is always translated as "Peter."

Peter: Strongs #4074 Petros (pet'-ros); apparently a primary word; a (piece of) rock, as a name, Petrus, an apostle. Thayer's Lexicon: A proper name used metaphorically of a soul that is hard and unyielding, and so resembling a rock.

One traditional interpretation of this verse seems to indicate that Peter was to be the foundation of the Christian Church - Our Catholic friends would say that Peter was the first Pope - but let's take another look.....



The word "rock" in this verse is slightly different:



Rock: Strongs #4073 petra (pet'-ra); a (mass of) rock (literally or figuratively): KJV-- rock. Thayer's Lexicon: a rock, ledge, cliff, projecting rock, large stone

So, how was this second word used elsewhere?

<u>Matthew 7:24</u>: Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock <4073>:

<u>1 Corinthians 10:4:</u> And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock <4073> that followed them: and that Rock <4073> was Christ.

The "rock" <4073> upon which the church would be built was Jesus. So we believe Jesus was saying, You are Peter, a rock in character. Upon this rock (the fact that Jesus is the Christ, the Messiah, the son of the living God), I will build my church. That was Jesus' message - he was the foundation.

<u>Matthew 16:19-20</u>: (ASV) <sup>19</sup>I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. <sup>20</sup>Then charged he the disciples that they should tell no man that he was the Christ.

Peter is the one that actually opened the door of the Gospel to the Gentiles through the first convert of Cornelius.

#### Jesus' rebuke of Peter:

<u>Matthew 16:21-25</u>: (ASV) <sup>21</sup>From that time began Jesus to show unto his disciples, that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and the third day be raised up. <sup>22</sup>And Peter took him, and began to rebuke him, saying, Be it far from thee, Lord: this shall never be unto thee. <sup>23</sup>But he turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art a stumbling-block unto me: for thou mindest not the things of God, but the things of men. <sup>24</sup>Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man would come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. <sup>25</sup>For



whosoever would save his life shall lose it: and whosoever shall lose his life for my sake shall find it.

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"Walk on the Water," (continued) Britt Nicole

So what are you waiting for? What do you have to lose? Your insecurities try to alter you

You know you're made for more So don't be afraid to move Your faith is all It takes and you can Walk on the water... Walk on the water too

Why end on a down note? Simple! First, the story is not over. We all know how Peter grows through his failures. Second, what an encouragement that one as impetuous as Peter - one who in one breath proclaims Jesus as Messiah and in the next breath plays the role of tempter - would have been given such incredible blessings from Jesus!

There is still much more to learn about the Apostle Peter. He showed us focused, clear faith and how to fall and have the grace to be lifted back up again.

The Apostle Peter shows us how to be faithful through all kinds of difficulty and problems. We want to apply the lessons to ourselves and become stronger in faith just like Peter.

So what can we learn from Peter? For Jonathan and Rick and Christian Questions, Think about it...!

### And now <u>even more</u> to think about... only in the Full Edition of CQ Rewind!



A bit more on Jesus beholding Simon at the very beginning:

Beheld: Strongs #1689 emblepo (em-blep'-o); to look on, i.e. (relatively) to observe fixedly, or (absolutely) to discern clearly: KJV-- behold, gaze up, look upon, (could) see.

Three examples of this word:

John 1:36: And looking upon <1689> Jesus as he walked, he saith, Behold the Lamb of God!

<u>Mark 10:21</u>: Then Jesus beholding <1689> him loved him, and said unto him, One thing thou lackest: go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, take up the cross, and follow me.

Luke 22:61: And the Lord turned, and looked upon <1689> Peter. And Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said unto him, Before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice.



# After the second interchange with Peter, Jesus heals Simon's mother-in-law just a few days later:

<u>Mark 1:30-37</u>: (NASB) <sup>30</sup>Now Simon's mother-in-law was lying sick with a fever; and immediately they spoke to Jesus about her. <sup>31</sup>And he came to her and raised her up, taking her by the hand, and the fever left her, and she waited on them. <sup>32</sup>When evening came, after the sun had set, they began bringing to him all who were ill and those who were demon-possessed. <sup>33</sup>And the whole city had gathered at the door. <sup>34</sup>And he healed many who were ill with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he was not permitting the demons to speak, because they knew who he was. <sup>35</sup>In the early morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house, and went away to a secluded place, and was praying there. <sup>36</sup>Simon and his companions searched for him; <sup>37</sup>they found him, and said to him, Everyone is looking for you.



#### Observations:

- Previous to this text, Simon and company are witnesses to the casting out of demons.
- Simon is shown Jesus' power first hand in a very personal way.
- In the evening (after Sabbath), Jesus heals many more, further showing his power.
- Simon and company follow Jesus in the early morning, wanting to be a part of him.

A bit more on Simon's third recorded encounter with Jesus:

(Source: Jamison, Fausset and Brown) Not their first call, however, recorded in John 1:35-42; nor their second, recorded in Matthew 4:18-22; but their third and last before their appointment to the apostleship. That these calls were all distinct and progressive seems quite plain. (Similar stages are observable in other eminent servants of Christ.)

Luke 5:1-11: (NRSV) <sup>1</sup>Once while Jesus was standing beside the lake of Gennesaret, and the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, <sup>2</sup>he saw two boats there at the shore of the lake; the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. <sup>3</sup>He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little way from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. <sup>4</sup>When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch. <sup>5</sup>Simon answered, Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets. <sup>6</sup>When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets were beginning to break. <sup>7</sup>So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both boats, so that they began to sink. <sup>8</sup>But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man! <sup>9</sup>For he and all who were with him were amazed at the catch of fish that they had taken; <sup>10</sup>and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. Then Jesus said to Simon, Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people. <sup>11</sup>When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him.

#### Simon's reaction was similar to that by Isaiah upon seeing the Glory of God:

<u>Isaiah 6:1-5</u>: (ASV) <sup>1</sup>In the year that king Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and his train filled the temple. <sup>2</sup>Above him stood the seraphim: each one had six wings; with twain he covered his face, and with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly. <sup>3</sup>And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is Jehovah of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory. <sup>4</sup>And the foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of him that cried, and the house was filled with smoke. <sup>5</sup>Then said I, Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, Jehovah of hosts.



#### Jesus teaches the Beatitudes:

<u>Matthew 5:1-12</u>: (ASV) <sup>1</sup>And seeing the multitudes, he went up into the mountain: and when he had sat down, his disciples came unto him: <sup>2</sup>and he opened his mouth and taught them, saying, <sup>3</sup>Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. <sup>4</sup>Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted. <sup>5</sup>Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth. <sup>6</sup>Blessed are they that hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled. <sup>7</sup>Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy. <sup>8</sup>Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God. <sup>9</sup>Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called sons of God. <sup>10</sup>Blessed are they that have been persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. <sup>11</sup>Blessed are ye when men shall reproach you, and persecute you, and say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. <sup>12</sup>Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets that were before you.

#### Jesus teaches to love your enemies:

<u>Matthew 5:43-48</u>: (ASV) <sup>43</sup>Ye have heard that it was said, Thou shalt love thy neighbor, and hate thine enemy: <sup>44</sup>but I say unto you, love your enemies, and pray for them that persecute you; <sup>45</sup>that ye may be sons of your Father who is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sendeth rain on the just and the unjust. <sup>46</sup>For if ye love them that love you, what reward have ye? do not even the publicans the same? <sup>47</sup>And if ye salute your brethren only, what do ye more than others? do not even the Gentiles the same? <sup>48</sup>Ye therefore shall be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

#### Jesus teaches about judging one another:

<u>Matthew 7:1-6</u>: (ASV) <sup>1</sup>Judge not, that ye be not judged. <sup>2</sup>For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured unto you. <sup>3</sup>And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye? <sup>4</sup>Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, Let me cast out the mote out of thine eye; and lo, the beam is in thine own eye? <sup>5</sup>Thou hypocrite, cast out first the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye. <sup>6</sup>Give not that which is holy unto the dogs, neither cast your pearls before the swine, lest haply they trample them under their feet, and turn and rend you.

A bit more on the walking on the water experience: (IF it is YOU, THEN COMMAND ME to come out onto the water. Remember the conditions were bad with waves and wind in the middle of a storm.)

Here is another "if" faith scenario - the man whose boy was possessed. This was similar in that the conditions were bleak and seemed impossible, and there was faith - yet not quite enough. Both Peter and the father cried out for help to Jesus upon their exposure. Jesus, in spite of the lack of faith, fulfills his miracle.

<u>Mark 9:21-29</u>: (NASB) <sup>21</sup>And he asked his father, How long has this been happening to him? And he said, from childhood. <sup>22</sup>It has often thrown him both into the fire and into the water to destroy him. But if you can do anything, take pity on us and help us! <sup>23</sup>And Jesus said to him, If you can?' All things are possible to him who believes. <sup>24</sup>Immediately the boy's father cried out and said, I do believe; help my unbelief. <sup>25</sup>When Jesus saw that a crowd was rapidly gathering, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, You deaf and mute spirit, I command you, come out of him and do not enter him again. <sup>26</sup>After crying out and throwing him into terrible convulsions, it came out; and the boy became so much like a corpse that most of them said, He is dead! <sup>27</sup>But Jesus took him by the hand and raised him; and he got up. <sup>28</sup>When he came into the house, his disciples began questioning him privately, Why could we not drive it out? <sup>29</sup>And he said to them, This kind cannot come out by anything but prayer.



A bit more on Peter as the rock - but not the rock that the church is built upon, this time from the new American Standard Greek Lexicon:

Peter: New American Standard Greek Lexicon: 4074. Petrov Petros; a noun akin to 4073, used as a proper name; "a stone" or "a boulder." *Peter*, one of the twelve apostles NAS-Peter (150), Peter's (5).

Rock: New American Standard Greek Lexicon: 4073. petra; a (large mass of) rock NAS-rock (10), rocks (3), rocky (2).