

March 31, 2024 *Sunrise Service*
This Fisherman's Life
Holiday Series

Text: Selected Scripture from the Gospels

Introduction: Alexander Whyte quote, *All the Apostles of the Bible*, Lockyer, p. 127.

We are first introduced to Simon in John 1:35-42. His brother Andrew was a disciple of John the Baptist, and Jesus was identified by John as *the Lamb of God*. After spending a day with Jesus, Andrew was convinced Jesus truly was the promised Messiah. He found his brother Simon, brought him to Jesus, and Jesus gave Simon the new name, Cephas or Petra or Peter.

On another occasion Jesus visited in Simon's house, and his mother-in-law was sick with a fever. Jesus healed her. (Matthew 8:14-15; Mark 1:29-31; Luke 4:38-39)

One day Jesus was at the Sea of Galilee with a multitude of people. He climbed into one of Peter's boats to teach the people from off the shore of the lake. When Jesus finished, He told Peter to take the boat into deeper water, drop a fishing net, and take up a catch.

Now Peter had been out all night fishing and had caught nothing, but He was willing to obey the teacher. The catch was so large it began ripping the net. When they called for assistance from John and James, they took in so many fish that the boats were at sinking capacity.

Peter was struck with conviction, realizing he was in the presence of deity. Jesus promised to make them fishers of men and they left the fishing business to follow Jesus. (Luke 5:1-11)

Matthew and Mark give similar abridged versions of this account. (Matthew 4:18-20; Mark 1:16-18)

Simon Peter is one of the most recognized of the twelve disciples. There is much we can learn from him as we watch him follow Jesus over the next three years.

This Fisherman's Life

I. Peter Got Some Things Right.

A. He recognized who Jesus was, the Son of God.

Matthew 16:13-20

Jesus said this was divinely revealed to Peter, but that on this fact His Church would be formed. Peter and the other apostles would proclaim the truths of the kingdom of heaven.

Jesus made many claims early in His ministry, one being that He was the bread of life and that those who follow Him would never hunger or thirst. Many turned away from Christ because they did not have the spiritual ears or understanding.

B. He knew Jesus was the only way to eternal life.

John 6:66-69

II. Peter Got Several Things Wrong.

A. He refused the thought that Jesus came to give His life.

Mark 8:31-33

Jesus shared from the perspective that it was His Father will that He be killed, but Peter would have none of it. Jesus had to set Peter straight.

B. He spoke rashly out of fear. Mark 9:2-10

Peter was privileged with James and John to experience Christ's transfiguration. This was when Jesus met with Moses and Elijah to talk about His upcoming death.

When things were their brightest, Peter, not really knowing what to say and being greatly afraid, suggested they build dwellings for the three men.

It was at this point the Father reminded Peter that Jesus was His beloved Son. At that point, Jesus lost His radiance and Moses and Elijah were gone. The three disciples were left with a secret to be kept until after His resurrection, although they were still baffled by the whole idea of a resurrection.

C. He refused (at first) to let Jesus wash his feet.

John 13:5-10

Whether because of embarrassment or pride, we're not told, but Peter did not want the Master washing his feet. But then in an instant, Peter was asking for the basin to be poured over him. Jesus corrected Peter lovingly and proceeded to wash the others' feet.

D. He insisted that his devotion could not be broken.

John 13:36-38

Only when tested can devotion be proved. I don't think we can question that Peter meant what he said 110% to Jesus, but Satan would win this battle. As Peter watched while Jesus' trial progressed, he did deny having any connection with Jesus three different times – and then the rooster crowed.

So What?

Another evening, three years after dropping all to follow Jesus, Peter decided to go fishing with some other disciples. The Lord had been crucified and had risen from the dead. It had been several days since they last saw Him.

That night of fishing proved as unproductive as the one three years earlier – they hadn't caught anything.

A man stood on shore as they were coming toward shore the next morning and asked about their catch. He told them to cast their net on the right side of the boat. Their catch was so large they could not draw it in.

John recognized the man as the risen Jesus; Peter dove in to swim to the man. The other disciples followed, dragging the net with them – it held 153 large fish. Jesus proceeded to serve them breakfast.

After breakfast Jesus had a heart-to-heart talk with Peter. You remember the account – just as Peter had denied the Lord three times, Jesus called for his love and commitment three times. (John 21:1-19)

Peter would keep his commitment to Jesus:

- He became the church's first preacher in Jerusalem.
- He was instrumental in healings.

- Despite arrests, beatings, and threats, he preached His risen Lord.
- He was foundational in establishing Christ's Church.

Aren't you glad we don't have to always get it right?

God's grace and mercy can look past our failures, forgive us of our sins, and work through us to bring Jesus to our world.