

Peter: Fisherman to Follower
FISHERMAN TO FOLLOWER

Monday, October 12

Reading: Luke Matthew 4:18-25

Matthew 4:18 *As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, He saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. 19 "Come, follow Me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people." 20 At once they left their nets and followed Him.*

The story of Simon Peter has always been a favorite among Christians, probably because he is so relatable. Simon son of Jonah was a fisherman on the northern shores of the Sea of Galilee. He had a house in the small fishing town of Capernaum (approximately 1000-2000 population). We know he was married because Jesus heals his mother-in-law (Mark 1:21-34). Jesus used Capernaum (perhaps even Peter's house) as His base of operations for His ministry (Matthew 4:13; Mark 2:1).

This fisherman who left his nets to follow Jesus always seemed to be putting his foot in his mouth. His love and devotion for Jesus made him say and do things before thinking. At least that is the picture we sometimes get.

But Peter is much deeper than that! When Jesus first saw him, the Lord called Simon "the rock." He saw in Peter a reliable, strong person whom He could use for His glory. He was privileged to be in Jesus' inner circle of three with the brothers James and John. They witnessed things the other apostles did not – the raising of Jarius' daughter (Luke 8), the transfiguration (Luke 9), and Jesus' agony in the garden (Mark 14). He seems to be the leader and spokesman for the 12 apostles.

Peter had his "ups and downs" - but don't we all! For the next four weeks we will delve into the life of this chief of apostles. We will see him at his highs and lows and hopefully discover how we too can be one of those "living stones...built into a spiritual house" (1 Peter 2:5).

LESSON: Peter was called by Christ to be a fisher of man. Later, Jesus would commission Peter to "Feed My sheep." Though he failed from time to time, Peter answered Jesus' call.

Jesus takes ordinary people and does extraordinary things through us when we devote our lives to following Him. How are you living up to the call Jesus gave you?