



## **Out of the boat**

How about a radical change? Try leaving a life of fishing for sea food to become a fisher of men. That is the Path that God laid down for Simon Peter a disciple of Jesus. Word of mouth is a big deal. Peter's brother met Jesus as a disciple of John the Baptist. Andrew was asked by Jesus to follow him. God set the path of Peter in motion. Andrew was so impressed with Jesus that he went to tell his brother Peter.

It's interesting that Jesus changed Peter's name from Simon right away. I realize that more time might be between all these events. It always appears that the Bible is one moment after another but that is not true. There are plenty of gaps of time not mentioned. Yet, Jesus changed Peter's name early on and a course was corrected.

Look at the life of Peter. He was fishing. A simple man that was probably not that educated. Jesus comes along and everything changes beginning with his name. Peter means the rock. What's with that? Sometimes you have to take the Gospels out of time. It's not all chronological in each book. The Gospels are a collection of Jesus stories with a message for each book to certain readers. Peter meets Jesus in John 1. In Matthew 5 Jesus has already met Andrew. He travels along and meets Peter and his brother Andrew and Jesus says follow me to them both.

The path is cool. Either way the story of Peter is one of growth and failure. Peter tries to walk on water but sinks. He is bold, outspoken, and blunt. I bet he was bragging that Jesus named him a rock. Yet, in Matthew 16 Peter gets it. He tells Jesus boldly that Jesus is the Christ. Jesus then claims Peter will be the foundation stone of the Church. Right after that Peter makes mistakes several times. Yet, God chose this man. Why? It's the path that explains it.

His brother says to Peter that he found the Christ. Why would a fisherman care? I bet Peter was devoted to the Lord. He knew his Bible. He accepted the claims of Jesus. He was passionate about God's plan and will for their lives. He was bold enough to try and walk on water. Bold enough to confront Jesus. Bold enough to follow Jesus after his arrest. This is the path of Peter. We needed a bold church leader.

I think the best part is his speech in Acts 15. This uneducated fisherman that bumbled along gave a speech in front of the Jerusalem council. How cool is that. He has learned. His faith has grown. Jesus knew he was a rock and said so from the first time they met. God knows our path before we do. Hear the wisdom of Peter on letting all types of people into the Christian church.

Acts 15:8-9 "God, who knows the heart, showed that he accepted them by giving the Holy Spirit to them, just as he did to us. 9 He did not discriminate between us and them, for he purified their hearts by faith."