

THE CHOSEN: Peter (2)

***One day Jesus was standing on the shore of Lake Gennesaret while the people pushed their way up to him to listen to the word of God. He saw two boats pulled up on the beach; the fishermen had left them and were washing the nets. Jesus got into one of the boats—it belonged to Simon—and asked him to push off a little from the shore. Jesus sat in the boat and taught the crowd.**

When he finished speaking, he said to Simon, “Push the boat out further to deep water, and you and your partners let down your nets for a catch. “Master”, Simon answered, “We worked hard all night long and caught nothing. But if you say so, I will let down the nets”.

They let them down and caught such a large number of fish that the nets were about to break. So they motioned to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. They came and filled both boats so full of fish that the boats were about to sink. When Simon Peter saw what had happened, he fell on his knees before Jesus and said, “Go away from me, Lord! For I am a sinful man!”

He and the others with him were all amazed at the number of fish that they had caught. The same was true of Simon’s partners, James and John, the sons of Zebedee. Jesus said to Simon, “Don’t be afraid; from now on you will be catching people”. They pulled the boats up on the beach, left everything, and followed Jesus.

Video Spot: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tDhpGbKPJSk>

**Watch excerpt from Episodes 5 & 6, from 28:34--32:15, where Peter tells his wife, Eden, about what has happened.*

Discussion Questions:

- 1) Have you watched any or all of Series One of *The Chosen*? Are you enjoying it? What have you learnt?

- 2) Who was Peter? What do the Gospels, *and the New Testament as a whole* tell us about him?
Read John 1:35-42; Luke 6:12-16; Mark 8:27-30; Luke 8:51; 9:28; Matt. 26:37; Acts 1:15-17; 2:14

- 3) What more do we learn about Peter from reading our Bible passage, Luke 5:1-11? *Focus on the words underlined in the version of this on p. 1*

- 4) What extra insights have you gained about Peter from watching *The Chosen*? Has it “driven you back to Scripture”, *as the writers hope*, in order to check out what is Biblical, and what has been imagined as a back story for Peter?

By the way, if you want to rewatch the depiction of Luke 5:1-11 which we watched in church, the reference is:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wRBv1r5JJ0s>

1:21:00 — 1:29:08 (Episodes 3 & 4)

- 5) What has our study of Luke 5:1-11, and the version of this in *The Chosen*, reminded you of? Of your own sinfulness and your desperate need for God’s ongoing forgiveness? That God calls you as you are? That God wants you and me to follow Jesus, *listening to him and learning from him, and doing what he did?*

Comment on, and discuss each of these.

Quotes:

The following are quotes from Sunday's message on the theme, "Peter, his story, and what it means for us":

***We are introduced to Peter by Luke in chapter five of his gospel. Peter is a fisherman who lives in the town of Capernaum with his brother Andrew, and who fishes with his "partners", James and John, the sons of Zebedee in Lake Galilee, which Luke calls Lake Gennesaret. Peter is married as is clear from the fact that Jesus later heals Peter's mother-in-law....**

***So what do we learn about Peter from our Bible reading.... I'd like to highlight three things:**

1) Firstly, Peter's awareness of his own sinfulness.... Peter is ordinary fisherman, an 'ordinary bloke', someone who has messed up in his life in different ways.

2) The second thing that I'd like to highlight in our Bible passage is the reference to Simon as being "Simon Peter" (Luke 5:8). This it seems is the 'nick name' that Jesus gave to Simon, and it's a 'nick name' that means "rock".

Why did Jesus give this 'nick name' of *Peter* to Simon? Well scholars argue the reasons why.... But almost certainly, it is a reference to the strength of character that Simon had, and to his leadership abilities....

3) Peter responded to meeting Jesus by leaving everything and following Jesus. This is what you do when you meet Jesus, and recognise who he is....

***The Chosen series aims to provide a back story for the characters in the Gospel so that you and I will get to know the characters better, and in the final analysis be driven back to Scripture to read for ourselves about the characters.**

That's what the writers of *The Chosen* do for Peter.... They ask the question, "What had Peter done that made him so conscious of his own sinfulness before Jesus? (Luke 5:8). They speculate that Peter, being a fisherman and 'a man's man' may have been involved in say betting on illegal fights, and being involved in the actual fights. This is the back story they give for Peter, and have Peter getting himself into debt and being unable to pay his taxes to the Roman Government. Because of this, Peter is forced to fish nonstop and even illegally on the Sabbath to try and catch enough fish to sell and repay his debt.... And worse still, so that he won't be imprisoned by the Romans....

The series portrays Peter and Andrew fishing non-stop one last night, with James and John and their father Zebedee.... But they catch nothing! As they reach shore on that last time before Peter will be arrested for his debts and other activities, they see a man on the beach teaching a group of people, one of who is Mary Magdalene....

***All this reminds us of our sinfulness and our desperate need for God's ongoing forgiveness....**

God calls us as we are.... Simon Peter was courageous, impetuous, charismatic, a leader, and a good speaker.... We're not all like that, in fact very few of us are. But God calls you and me as we are, with the abilities and our frailties, our strengths and our weaknesses.... And God sees us for what we can become, just as Jesus saw in Simon Peter the person he could become. God wants to make use of you and me in His Kingdom in all sorts of wonderful ways.

Simon Peter responded to meeting Jesus by leaving everything and following Jesus. This is what God wants you and me to do as we meet Jesus, and recognise who he is....