

Simon (Peter)

Key Passages: Matthew 16:16-23, Mark 1:16-20;8:27-38;14:37-38, Luke 22:31-32, John 1:40-55;13:4-7; 21:15-17, Galatians 2:1, 1 Peter 1:3-7

Like the past few weeks, I want to begin by asking you a few questions.

1. When you think about who “you” are as a follower of Christ, do you consider the past you, the present you, or the future you?
2. Our apostle of focus tonight is Simon (Mark 1:16, John 1:40-41), also called Simeon (Hebrew for Simon - Acts 15:14, 2 Peter 1:1), Petros (Greek for Peter – Mark 3:16, Luke 6:14, John 1:42), or Cephas (Aramaic for Peter - John 1:40;6:68;13:6;24,36 Also used by Paul in referencing Simon – 1 Corinthians 1:12; 3:22; 15; and Galatians 2:9). Simon was his common name, or his formal name. It means – impulsive or unstable. Petros (Peter), the name given to him by Jesus, was more like a nickname. It means – rock. If Jesus were to assign you a nickname, like he did for Simon, what would it be?

The Gospels are filled with stories of Simon. If you did your research, you would discover some important characteristics associated with Simon. You will also discover important characteristics of Peter. But wait, aren’t they the same? What are some of these characteristics?

- Impulsive
- Energetic
- Quick Tempered
- Devoted
- Loyal
- Determined

In the Scriptures, when he is mentioned in matters that we would call secular, which name is used? **Simon**. Why do you think this is? Each of the authors wanted us to know when he was displaying unregenerate characteristics. When you look at John’s Gospel, he refers to his friend using both names. Fifteen times, John calls him Simon Peter. Surely, he didn’t mean to call him an “impulsive rock.” That would be contradictory, don’t you think? Perhaps John did this to show us something very real about this ordinary man. Perhaps he wanted us to see how we all struggle and have the tendency to go back and forth between our BC characteristics and our AC characteristics?

Read Mark 1:16-20

What is significant to note about what Jesus is asking Simon and Andrew to do?

Do you think it’s possible that these two men had already met Jesus? **See John 1:35-42**

Read Mark 8:27-38

Why do you think people thought Jesus was someone other than the Messiah?

How would you answer Jesus' question – who do you say that I am?

How did Peter answer?

What can we learn from this account?

Read Luke 47-51

Which person (Simon or Peter) do you think reacted here? Can you think of a time where you thought you were doing what Jesus asked, but found out later that you went about it the wrong way?

Read John 13:36-38 and 21:15-17.

What can we glean from reading these two passages about Peter?

2 Examples of a changed man:**Read 1 Peter 2:21-23**

Read 1 Peter 5:8-10 – Here, Peter is preaching from experience. His reference to “suffering” is not for the sake of acknowledging his hardships, or temptations, or even his failures. He is revealing to us that he has suffered because of poor choices and pride. He is encouraging us to accept that a relationship with Jesus will bring suffering, whether we bring it on ourselves or it's a persecution because of another's dislike for Jesus.

Simon, the one who started out impulsive, eager, and wavering, because of Jesus, became a loyal and devoted follower who learned to operate out of humility and restraint and learned to courageously practice the same compassion and love as the One he eventually fell in love with,