

Jesus Apprentice; Peter

John 1:41-42

Introduction: When we consider John chapter 1 and verses 38 to 51 we see John's account of Jesus calling His disciples. This is on the surface appears to be a narrative portion of Scripture. And we'll see many of these as we engage the gospel of John, as John tells the story of Jesus from His own perspective. This is a very, very simple account of Jesus collecting His first disciples. But it has great importance for the apostle John because John has a purpose in writing this gospel, and he reveals that purpose in chapter 20, verse 31, *"John 20:31 But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name."* As born again Christians we claim to believe Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, correct. For the record, you cannot be a born again Christian and reject Jesus as the Christ and the Son of God. We know that is what Jesus Calls us to, but how do we follow Him? Do you realize there is a correct way to follow Jesus and likewise an incorrect way to follow Him? That is one reason we have the illustration of His first disciples. We will either follow Jesus as our master or as a type of charismatic guru. Jesus as master is the only way He accepts. To please Jesus as His disciple we must see ourselves as He sees us and let Him shape our lives into His service. Last week we looked at Andrew, how he was simply an ordinary everyday man that Jesus transformed into a powerful witness, having a magnetic testimony that drew others to Jesus. This week we look at Andrew's first convert, his brother Peter. And, as you learned last week, you have many things in common with Andrew; you will learn this week you have many things in common with Peter. Notice with me...

I. Jesus can strengthen the impulsive.

Yes Peter was very impulsive and that shows one of his many human weaknesses. Just as Peter had weakness that required his confession and repentance. You and I must realize our weaknesses as well, for instance.

- Impulsive behavior will always create bad decisions
- Materialism, worldliness, jealousy, covetousness
- Lust, greed, selfishness

II. Jesus can stabilize the easily swayed.

History tells us Peter was easily swayed by popular opinion and that is not a character the disciple can have.

III. Jesus can rename the person.

Simon son of Barjona simply means Simon son of John (Aramaic) and this is the name of a man in need of a Savior, a man with a quick temper, a man with a worldly desire. When Simon met Jesus and followed His call, his life changed and so did his name, to Peter. In the Greek Peter is "Petros" which means stone or piece of rock. You see Jesus is the cornerstone "the Rock" and Peter is the stone or piece of rock.

Every born again child of God is just like Peter a “Petros” or piece of Rock. We have a new life a new name and a new life in Jesus Christ.

Conclusion: In the book “Twelve ordinary men” author John MacAuthor has this to say about Peter. “Peter was exactly like most Christians-both carnal and spiritual. He succumbed to the habits of the flesh sometimes; he functioned in the Spirit other times. He was sinful sometimes, but other times he acted the way a righteous man ought to act. This vacillating man-sometimes Simon, sometimes Peter-was the leader of the Twelve.”