

Remnant Life Church
January 6, 2021
The Disciples of Jesus – Peter
Luke 5:3-11

His Life and Nature

- He was a native of Bethsaida (**John 1:44**)
 - A city located somewhere on the northern shore of the Sea of Galilee near where the Jordan River enters the sea
 - It was the home to 5 of the disciples
 - Peter, his brother Andrew
 - James and John
 - Philip
- Like most from that town and those who lived along the shores, Peter was a fisherman by trade
 - He and his brother Andrew were partners in a fishing business with James and John (**Luke 5:7**)
- Married with a family (**Mark 1:3; I Cor 9:5**)
- Peter's introduction to Jesus was unique in that it began with a miracle
 - Why?
 - Perhaps because Jesus, knowing the nature of this man to act impulsively and act out, needed an action that would overwhelm him

READ – Luke 5:3-11

- In **Luke 5:3-11** he has fished all night and caught nothing
 - Jesus gets into Simon's boat to teach the people
 - Then tells Peter to move out into deeper water and let his net down again
 - Fishermen did not seek advice from others – they knew their trade (like painters)
 - But Peter did as he was told and a massive amount of fish were in the net
- Peter fell at Jesus' feet saying he was not worthy to be in His presence
 - We need this reverential fear to come back
 - The world has lost its fear of God and His holiness
- Peter was known for several things but perhaps it was his impulsive nature that we remember the most
 - He was given to speaking first and thinking later (**Luke 9** – Mount of Transfiguration)
 - Asked the questions everyone else was only thinking
 - **Math 15:15** – He says to Jesus, explain to us the lesson of eating “clean” and “unclean” food
 - **Math 18:21** – how many times should we forgive?
- But he was bold when proclaiming who Jesus was

- When Jesus saw the crowd leaving after one of His teachings, He asked the disciples if they wanted to leave too
- Peter said - Where would we go you have the words of eternal life and you are the Christ, the Son of the living God ([John 6:68-69](#))
- Peter was the one to make the great confession regarding the identity of Jesus
 - Jesus asked them who do you think I am?
 - Peter answered in the same way as he did before - You are the Christ, the Son of the living God ([Matt 16:16](#))
- Perhaps it was for these demonstrations of faith that Peter become one of Jesus' inner circle
 - He, along with James and John were present at the transfiguration ([Matt 17:1-4](#))
 - Present at the raising of the daughter of Jarius from the dead ([Luke 8:51](#))
 - They were the closest to Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane ([Matt 26:36-46](#))
- Peter also experienced the highest of highs and the lowest of lows
 - It was Peter who walked on the water ([Matt 14:28-31](#))
 - But it was Peter who became the voice of satan ([Matt 16:21-23](#))
 - When Jesus told the disciples what He must endure on the cross to complete His ministry Peter spoke up
 - Peter told Jesus that what He had told should not happen
 - He was sternly rebuked when Jesus told satan to go away and be quiet (Get behind Me...)
- Peter's final impulsive act was one that at the same time should his passion for Jesus and his ignorance
 - Peter was the only one to react when Jesus was arrested
 - He grabbed a sword and swung it, cutting off the ear of the high priests servant, Malchus ([John 8:10-11](#))
 - It is an act of desperation born out his love for Jesus
 - But it also demonstrates his lack of faith in what Jesus had told him earlier
- Of course we also know that it was Peter, that one who had declared the Lordship of Jesus not long before, who would betray Jesus 3 times
- But later he was reinstated by a risen Jesus as the leader of the 12

His Ministry

- Peter was one of that group who went fishing after the death of Jesus
 - Notice that this time, rather than walking on the water to Jesus, he had to swim ([John 21:7](#))
- It was Peter who led the 10-day prayer meeting in the upper room with the 120 followers of Jesus prior to the time of Pentecost
- And then it was Peter who preached the sermon at Pentecost and as a result 3000 came into the kingdom that day ([Acts 2:40-41](#))
 - Notice it is replaces the 3000 lost back in Exodus when the people tried to revolt against Moses ([Ex 32:28](#))
 - Jesus came to fulfill the Old Testament, not do away with it
- Peter's ministry was primarily to the Jews

- Peter's work early in the life of the church created a messianic branch of the Jewish faith – almost like a new denomination
 - There were the Pharisee Jews who emphasized the keeping of the Mosaic law
 - There were the Sadducee Jews who did not believe in the afterlife nor in angels or spirits;
 - They did not believe in the resurrection of the dead so there was no reward or punishment for your deeds on earth
 - And now, because of Peter's sermon at Pentecost, there were Christian Jews who believed that Jesus was the Messiah
- As Peter's ministry was to the Jews, Paul's was to the Gentiles
 - Peter and Paul about 3 years after Paul's conversion ([Gal 1:18](#))
 - But like several times with Jesus, Peter was buked by Paul because his words and actions were being determined not by his convictions but by who he was with - Jews or Gentiles ([Gal 2:11-16](#))

His Later Life and Death

- Peter and Paul's ministries paralleled each other in many ways
- One of those was that both were imprisoned several times and both experienced miraculous, supernatural releases
- Eventually Peter ended up in Rome with his family
 - First century church historians write that Peter witnessed his wife's execution while in Rome
 - Most likely as a part of the purge that the emperor initiated in response to the first that burned over 2/3 of Rome
 - And tradition has it that Peter was crucified upside down in the Roman Circus in 67 A.D.
 - On an order by Emperor Nero who would himself be dead in less than a year

Peter is a very strong representation of most Christians today

- Zealous for the things of God yet capable of running the other way when confronted
- Knowing a great deal about Jesus and the life of the Christians but often knowing very little
- Often speaking when it would be better to remain silent
- But in the end, knowing that to give your all to Him is the only way to live