

The CHOSEN

The Rock on Which It Is Built Episode 4

Key Bible Verse

As Jesus walked alongside the Galilee Sea, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew, throwing fishing nets into the sea, because they were fishermen. "Come, follow me," he said, "and I'll show you how to fish for people." Right away, they left their nets and followed him. Continuing on, he saw another set of brothers, James the son of Zebedee and his brother John. They were in a boat with Zebedee their father repairing their nets. Jesus called them and immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

~ Matthew 4:18-22 ~

Meet the Characters

Zebedee, James & John – Mark 3:17, Luke 5:1-11

Zebedee is the father of James & John, who along with Peter become Jesus' closest disciples. Nicknamed by Jesus as the "sons of thunder," they were rough-hewn guys who would not back down from a confrontation. They were fishing partners with Peter, and like Peter they left everything to follow Jesus after the miraculous catch of Luke 5. In many ways, like us, they were hopelessly human and remarkably unremarkable. As a follower of Jesus; however, they were transformed. James was the first apostle to be martyred, and John become known as the apostle of love. John goes on to write a gospel, three letters, and the Book of Revelation in the Bible.



John the Baptist– Matthew 3, 11:1-19, 14:1-12, Luke 1:5-25, 57-80, John 1

John was the foretold forerunner of Jesus who called Jews to repent in preparation for the Messiah. John and Jesus were cousins. After a faithful ministry, he was imprisoned for his unpopular message and beheaded by Herod. Jesus tags him "greatest of those born of women." John is mentioned in all four Gospels as having baptized Jesus.

Peter – John 1:40-42, Luke 5:1-11, Matthew 16:13-28, Mark 14:66-72

A fisherman known as Simon until Jesus renames him. The name Peter in Greek is petros, meaning rock. He is introduced to Jesus by his brother, Andrew, and follows Jesus after a miraculous catch of fish caused by Jesus. He is well known for walking on water, slicing off a soldier's ear, denying Jesus three times before being asked by Jesus three times to feed his "sheep." He is attributed with writing 1 & 2 Peter.



Andrew – John 1:40-42, John 6:8-9

One of the first to follow Jesus and known for introducing his brother Simon/Peter to Jesus. Together with Peter along with fellow fishermen James and John, he leaves everything to follow Jesus after the miraculous catch of fish. He plays a key role in feeding of the 5,000.

Is that true? (clarifying artistic imagination)

Did John the Baptizer call the Pharisees “snakes”?

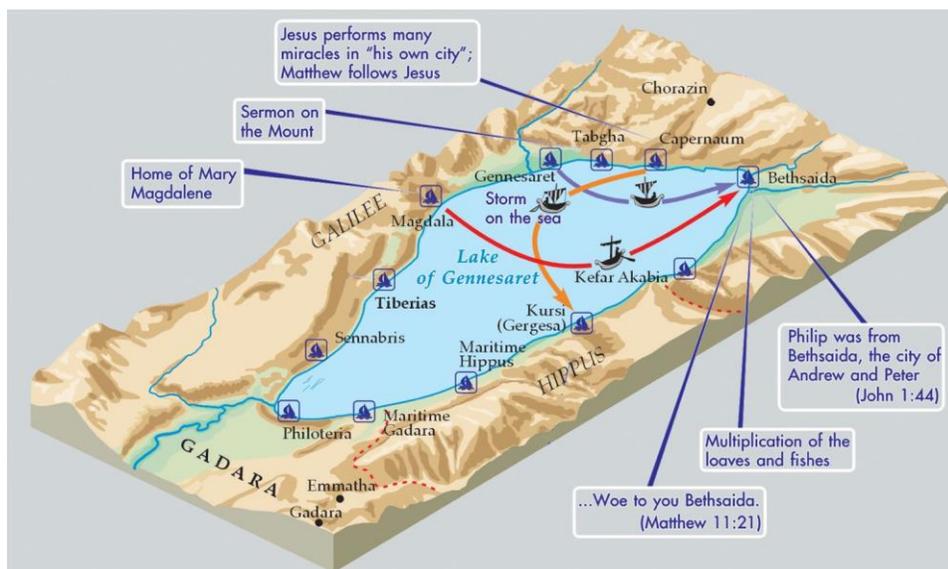
Yes – a “brood of vipers” in fact (Luke 3:7). And John was eventually thrown into prison. However, we have no record of Nicodemus visiting John in prison.

Did the Romans hire Matthew to spy on Peter? There is no record of this in the gospels. All we know is that Matthew did collect taxes somewhere in the region of Galilee, where Peter and Andrew lived. We do not know if they knew each other before Jesus called them together.

Did Andrew try to convince Peter about Jesus?

Yes, “the first thing Andrew did (after meeting Jesus) was to find his brother Simon and tell him ‘We have found the Messiah!’” (John 1:41). However, unlike the plot of *The Chosen*, Simon goes right away to Jesus, and Jesus changes his name to “Peter” (John 1:42). Peter and Andrew, along with other disciples, follow Jesus for some before the miraculous catch of Luke 5. So, although *The Chosen* depicts that catch as Peter’s first encounter with Jesus, Peter would have had many encounters with Jesus before that.

The Sea of Galilee, also called Lake Kinneret, Gennesaret, or Tiberias, is a freshwater lake in Israel, and is the lowest freshwater lake on Earth. The surface area covers 64 square miles. In comparison, Lake Tahoe is 192 square miles and Lake Texoma is 139 square miles. Most of the stories of Jesus and the disciples took place on or around the Sea of Galilee, including the Sermon on the Mount, feeding of the 5,000 thousand, Peter walking on water, Jesus calming the storms, and the miraculous catch of fish. Fishing was a common trade and way of life for many people living along the shores of the Sea of Galilee.



Growth Questions

1. In this episode, we see Peter “stuck between a rock and a hard place.” Have you ever felt stuck like this? What did you do? What did God do?
2. Peter is committed to trying to fix things with his own ideas and strength, even saying at one point “Faith isn’t going to get me more fish!” Why do you think we can be so stubborn and slow to call on the Lord for help by faith?
3. When you have gotten yourself (and / or family) into a desperate situation from not following Christ’s ways, do you tend to eventually seek Him for direction or do you feel you must “fix” things first?
4. Read Luke 5:1-11. What stands out to you in this passage?
5. Regardless of the full back story to Luke 5:1-11, why do you think Peter was so moved by this miraculous catch?
6. In Luke 5:5, Peter demonstrates a “reluctant obedience.” However, this obedience sets him up to more fully encounter Jesus, which then leads to a “radical obedience”! What can we learn from this?
7. Andrew met Jesus through John the Baptist and is confident He’s the Messiah. What do you think about his longing for Simon Peter to know Jesus? Who is your “Peter?”
8. Jesus told the fisher brothers that they would become fishers of men. What did that mean for them? What does that mean for you? In what ways are you “fishing” for people as you follow Jesus?
9. What else did you learn about Jesus from this episode? Are there any ways in which your impression or understanding of Jesus was sharpened, challenged, or changed?