

# LIFE WITH THE MASTER

## “Iron Shapeneth Stone”

*of Jesus and Peter*

### Introduction

Prov 27:17 “Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend.” KJV<sup>1</sup>

*This teaching title is adapted from the proverb cited above. In my life, one of my greatest challenges is believing in change. But not just any old change, we see those often enough. No, the change I am speaking of is the change in people – others and ourselves. Have you ever wondered if certain aspects of somebody else’s character will ever change? How about your own?*

*I don’t know why this should be such a challenge, especially since the Lord promises us that in Him all things are new (2 Cor 5:17). But it is. We see Brother So-and-so still doing such-and-such and we ask ourselves, will he ever change? We find ourselves stuck in an all-too-familiar ditch and we wonder: will we ever change?*

*Faith calls for us to not walk by sight. Not only can Brother So-and-so change, we can too. If we are in relationship with Jesus Christ, it is unavoidable. He will not leave us as He finds us. For proof of this, we need look no further than Scripture.*

Matt 4:18-20

18 And Jesus, walking by the sea of Galilee, saw two brethren, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea: for they were fishers.

19 And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.

20 And they straightway left their nets, and followed him.

*This is exactly how we most often think about the calling out of the disciples. Simon and Andrew were minding their own business, mending nets. A charismatic and mystic stranger strides up on shore and says, “Follow me.” Of course, they do (probably owing to the halo they see around the man’s head and his voice that seems to somehow echo every time he speaks!). But that’s not how it happened. This was not their first encounter. But their first encounter was no less dramatic.*

### I. A Change of Name

#### 1. John’s Ministry

Acts 1:21-22

21 Wherefore of these men which have companied with us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us,

22 Beginning from the baptism of John, unto that same day that he was taken up from us, must one be ordained to be a witness with us of his resurrection.

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<sup>1</sup> All references are from the King James Version of the Bible unless otherwise noted.

*One of the qualifications for being numbered among the Twelve was having been present at the baptism of Jesus by John. This gives us a big clue as to why they would drop what they were doing and follow Him.*

A. “And the next day. . .”

John 1:29-34

29 **The next day John seeth Jesus** coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.

30 This is he of whom I said, After me cometh a man which is preferred before me: for he was before me.

31 And I knew him not: but that he should be made manifest to Israel, therefore am I come baptizing with water.

32 And John bare record, saying, I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it abode upon him.

33 And I knew him not: but he that sent me to baptize with water, the same said unto me, Upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending, and remaining on him, the same is he which baptizeth with the Holy Ghost.

34 And I saw, and bare record that this is the Son of God.

*From a literary standpoint, this event happened on the second day of the book of John. (“And the next day” necessitates a “previous day.” Next day + previous day = two days.) It was on this day that Jesus was baptized.*

B. “Again the next day. . .”

John 1:35-40

35 **Again the next day after John stood**, and two of his disciples;

36 And looking upon Jesus as he walked, he saith, Behold the Lamb of God!

37 And the two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus.

38 Then Jesus turned, and saw them following, and saith unto them, What seek ye? They said unto him, Rabbi, (which is to say, being interpreted, Master,) where dwellest thou?

39 He saith unto them, Come and see. They came and saw where he dwelt, and abode with him that day: for it was about the tenth hour.

40 One of the two which heard John speak, and followed him, was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother.

*“Again the next day after. . .” After what? After the previous “next day.” This means that Jesus was still around **the day after His baptism!** But hold that thought for now.*

John 1:41

He first findeth his own brother Simon, and saith unto him, We have found the Messiah, which is, being interpreted, the Christ.

*Andrew finds Simon and introduces him to Jesus.*

C. “And the following day. . .”

John 1:43

**The day following Jesus** would go forth into Galilee, and findeth Philip, and saith unto him, Follow me.

*The day after meeting Andrew and Simon, Jesus is set to go up to the Galilee and meets Philip along the way. This is now two days after His baptism. But before He goes to the Galilee, He marks Simon with a new name.*

2. A New Name

John 1:42

And he brought him to Jesus. And when Jesus beheld him, he said, Thou art Simon the son of Jona: thou shalt be called Cephas, which is by interpretation, A stone.

*Names are extremely important. They identify us, shape us, and even define us. In this their first meeting, Jesus renames Simon. It was no small deal.*

A. Jesus beheld him.

*“And when Jesus beheld him, he said . . .” John tells us. Jesus took a good look at Simon. He takes a good look at us. But what is it that the Lord sees?*

1 Sam 16:7

But the LORD said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart.

*The Lord looks on our hearts.*

Heb 4:12-13

12 For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

13 Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.

*There is no hiding from the Lord’s gaze. He knows what our thoughts and dreams are. He knows our true character and He knows our calling. Our true character isn’t necessarily how we are but what He intended us to be. This is why we say that we are “living a lie” when we are hypocritical or when we fall short. We know what our character is **supposed** to be. And this character is what He calls forth out of us by granting us a new name.*

Revelation 2:17

He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone,

and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it.

B. “You are Simon son of Jona”

Matthew 16:17

And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.

*That Jesus gave him a new name doesn't mean that He forgot his old name.<sup>2</sup> Simon Barjona: Simon son of Jonah. Simon means hearing one (Gen 29:33) and Jonah means dove. Thus, Simon's birth name means “the hearing son of the dove.” He was declared at birth to be one who would hear the call of the Holy Spirit.*

C. “You will be called Cephas”

*Cephas means stone. The Greek word translated “stone” in John 1:42 is petros and means “a rock.” Not a rock like Jesus is The Rock, but no small pebble nonetheless. Jesus beheld this hearing son of the dove and said, “You are a rock, a substantial man, one who is anchored, one I can build on.”*

*Is Peter the “Rock” the church is built on?*

Matthew 16:16-18

16 And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.

17 And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.

18 And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

*The rock in verse 18 is petra. Unlike petros, petra is a mass of rock like a cliff. Though a petros need not be small, it can be moved. Petra is massive enough to imply steadfastness and immovability. The Rock is the Lord Jesus Christ. He is the bedrock of the Church. But other stones are placed on Him.*

Eph 2:19-21

19 Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God;

20 And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone;

21 In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord:

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<sup>2</sup> The Lord directly refers to him as Peter (or Cephas) five times (Matt. 16:18; Luke 22:34; John 1:42; 21:15; Acts 10:13 [11:7]) and Simon ten times (Matt 16:17; 17:25; Mark 14:37; Luke 22:31 twice; John 1:42; 21:15 twice; 21:16,17). Even though Scripture records Jesus calling Peter Simon twice as much as “Peter,” the name Peter is applied to him in the Bible predominately (around 160 times!).

*The apostles are still founding stones in the Church and this is what Jesus was telling Simon on their first face-to-face encounter. “You’re a rock, mister. That’s what I am going to call you – Rock.”*

### 3. The Wilderness Timing

#### A. By the Jordan River

*To recap a little bit, we’ve seen Jesus baptized, He meets Andrew and John the day after, and two days after He meets Philip as He heads to the Galilee. All these events occurred in Judea near the Jordan River.*

*What happened when He arrived in the Galilee?*

John 2:1-11

1 And the third day there was a marriage in Cana of Galilee; and the mother of Jesus was there:

2 And both Jesus was called, and his disciples, to the marriage.

3 And when they wanted wine, the mother of Jesus saith unto him, They have no wine.

4 Jesus saith unto her, Woman, what have I to do with thee? mine hour is not yet come.

5 His mother saith unto the servants, Whatsoever he saith unto you, do it.

6 And there were set there six waterpots of stone, after the manner of the purifying of the Jews, containing two or three firkins apiece.

7 Jesus saith unto them, Fill the waterpots with water. And they filled them up to the brim.

8 And he saith unto them, Draw out now, and bear unto the governor of the feast. And they bare it.

9 When the ruler of the feast had tasted the water that was made wine, and knew not whence it was: (but the servants which drew the water knew;) the governor of the feast called the bridegroom,

10 And saith unto him, Every man at the beginning doth set forth good wine; and when men have well drunk, then that which is worse: but thou hast kept the good wine until now.

11 This beginning of miracles did Jesus in Cana of Galilee, and manifested forth his glory; and his disciples believed on him. KJV

*Cana is not far from Nazareth. After gathering His first few disciples, Jesus took them up to His home town to a wedding feast He was invited to attend. It was there that He turned the water to wine and gave them an indication of glories to follow.*

*After the record of His first miracle, John 2:12 sounds very abrupt.*

John 2:12

After this he went down to Capernaum, he, and his mother, and his brethren, and his disciples: and they continued there not many days. KJV

*Two questions should now come to mind. One, why would Jesus feel compelled to move His family from Nazareth to Capernaum? Two, what happened to Jesus' foray into the wilderness? The answer to the second question will help us find the answer to the first.*

## B. Into the Wilderness

*Matthew, Mark, and Luke record Jesus' entry into the wilderness as the next event after His baptism (Matt. 3:13-4:11; Mark 1:9-13; Luke 3:21-22, 4:1). Not only does John not mention the 40 days in the wilderness, his sequential narrative does not allow for it prior to the wedding feast of Cana. What gives?*

### Mark 1:10-12

10 And straightway coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens opened, and the Spirit like a dove descending upon him:  
11 And there came a voice from heaven, saying, Thou art my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.  
12 And immediately the Spirit driveth him into the wilderness.

*Mark is the most stark and dramatic of the Gospel writers. Without John's information coupled with what Matthew and Luke tell us, we are left with the impression that Jesus walked with wet clothes into the wilderness! John clearly has Jesus still hanging around the Jordan River for at least two days **after** His baptism. Are they contradicting each other or are we not understanding what is being communicated?*

*The failure must be in understanding, for the Gospels do not contradict each other; rather, they compliment each other. I know what I mean when I say "immediately." Immediately leaves no time for "in between." Immediately is right now. But what does Mark mean?*

### Mark 1:23-28

23 And there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit; and he cried out,  
24 Saying, Let us alone; what have we to do with thee, thou Jesus of Nazareth? art thou come to destroy us? I know thee who thou art, the Holy One of God.  
25 And Jesus rebuked him, saying, Hold thy peace, and come out of him.  
26 And when the unclean spirit had torn him, and cried with a loud voice, he came out of him.  
27 And they were all amazed, insomuch that they questioned among themselves, saying, What thing is this? what new doctrine is this? for with authority commandeth he even the unclean spirits, and they do obey him.  
28 **And immediately** his fame spread abroad throughout all the region round about Galilee.

*Mark 1:28 shows us that the use of "immediately" in Mark is a literary device that tells us what the next major event was, not how quickly after the previous event it*

*happened. It should be obvious that it took time for news of the exorcism and Jesus' manner of teaching to spread throughout the region.*

C. From Nazareth to Capernaum

Luke 3:21-22

21 Now when all the people were baptized, it came to pass, that Jesus also being baptized, and praying, the heaven was opened,

22 And the Holy Ghost descended in a bodily shape like a dove upon him, and a voice came from heaven, which said, Thou art my beloved Son; in thee I am well pleased.

Luke 4:1

And Jesus being full of the Holy Ghost returned from Jordan, and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness,

*Luke gives us an indication that Jesus didn't walk into the wilderness wet from His baptism. He says that Jesus "returned from Jordan." The word translated "returned" is hupostrepho meaning "to go back to a former state." In other words, it means "to go back from where you came." Where did Jesus come to the Jordan from? The Galilee. So John and Luke record the same thing: that Jesus returned to the Galilee after being baptized. He attended the wedding feast of Cana and some time after was led into the wilderness.*

Matthew 4:1-12

1 Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil.

2 And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward an hungred.

3 And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread.

4 But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.

5 Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple,

6 And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone.

7 Jesus said unto him, It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.

8 Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them;

9 And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me.

10 Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.

11 Then the devil leaveth him, and, behold, angels came and ministered unto him.

12 Now when Jesus had heard that John was cast into prison, he departed into Galilee;

*From the wilderness, Jesus returns to the Galilee.*

Matthew 4:13

And leaving Nazareth, he came and dwelt in Capernaum, which is upon the sea coast, in the borders of Zabulon and Nephthalim:

*Matthew 4:13 confirms what John 2:12 told us: Jesus moved from Nazareth to Capernaum. Luke tells us why.*

Luke 4:14-16

14 And Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit into Galilee: and there went out a fame of him through all the region round about.

15 And he taught in their synagogues, being glorified of all.

16 And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: and, as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and stood up for to read.

*When He came out of the wilderness, He went about the Galilee teaching. His itinerary brought Him back to His hometown synagogue in Nazareth.*

Luke 4:17-31

17 And there was delivered unto him the book of the prophet Esaias. And when he had opened the book, he found the place where it was written,

18 The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised,

19 To preach the acceptable year of the Lord.

20 And he closed the book, and he gave it again to the minister, and sat down. And the eyes of all them that were in the synagogue were fastened on him.

21 And he began to say unto them, This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears.

22 And all bare him witness, and wondered at the gracious words which proceeded out of his mouth. And they said, Is not this Joseph's son?

23 And he said unto them, Ye will surely say unto me this proverb, Physician, heal thyself: whatsoever we have heard done in Capernaum, do also here in thy country.

24 And he said, Verily I say unto you, No prophet is accepted in his own country.

25 But I tell you of a truth, many widows were in Israel in the days of Elias, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, when great famine was throughout all the land;

26 But unto none of them was Elias sent, save unto Sarepta, a city of Sidon, unto a woman that was a widow.

27 And many lepers were in Israel in the time of Eliseus the prophet; and none of them was cleansed, saving Naaman the Syrian.

28 And all they in the synagogue, when they heard these things, were filled with wrath,

29 And rose up, and thrust him out of the city, and led him unto the brow of the hill whereon their city was built, that they might cast him down headlong.  
30 But he passing through the midst of them went his way,  
31 And came down to Capernaum, a city of Galilee, and taught them on the sabbath days.

*The people of His hometown didn't take too kindly to His teaching. They were upset enough to try to kill Him! After this incident, He wisely moved down to Capernaum.*

John 2:12

After this he went down to Capernaum, he, and his mother, and his brethren, and his disciples: and they continued there not many days.

*Once in Capernaum, Jesus began teaching in their synagogue on the Sabbath days. It was after one of the services that He healed Simon's mother-in-law.*

Luke 4:31-39

31 And came down to Capernaum, a city of Galilee, and taught them on the sabbath days.  
32 And they were astonished at his doctrine: for his word was with power.  
33 And in the synagogue there was a man, which had a spirit of an unclean devil, and cried out with a loud voice,  
34 Saying, Let us alone; what have we to do with thee, thou Jesus of Nazareth? art thou come to destroy us? I know thee who thou art; the Holy One of God.  
35 And Jesus rebuked him, saying, Hold thy peace, and come out of him. And when the devil had thrown him in the midst, he came out of him, and hurt him not.  
36 And they were all amazed, and spake among themselves, saying, What a word is this! for with authority and power he commandeth the unclean spirits, and they come out.  
37 And the fame of him went out into every place of the country round about.  
38 And he arose out of the synagogue, and entered into Simon's house. And Simon's wife's mother was taken with a great fever; and they besought him for her.  
39 And he stood over her, and rebuked the fever; and it left her: and immediately she arose and ministered unto them.

## **II. A Change of Profession**

### **1. Of Nets and Fishes**

*It was during this time in Capernaum that Jesus commandeered Simon's boat to use it as His pulpit.*

Luke 5:1-8

1 And it came to pass, that, as the people pressed upon him to hear the word of God, he stood by the lake of Gennesaret,  
2 And saw two ships standing by the lake: but the fishermen were gone out of them, and were washing their nets.

- 3 And he entered into one of the ships, which was Simon's, and prayed him that he would thrust out a little from the land. And he sat down, and taught the people out of the ship.
- 4 Now when he had left speaking, he said unto Simon, Launch out into the deep, and let down your nets for a draught.
- 5 And Simon answering said unto him, Master, we have toiled all the night, and have taken nothing: nevertheless at thy word I will let down the net.
- 6 And when they had this done, they inclosed a great multitude of fishes: and their net brake.
- 7 And they beckoned unto their partners, which were in the other ship, that they should come and help them. And they came, and filled both the ships, so that they began to sink.
- 8 When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord.

*Simon realized his lack of faith. The Lord had told him to lower his "nets." Simon decided to humor the Teacher and consented to lowering a "net." His mistake cost him a net and nearly cost him his fleet!*

## 2. Fishers of Men

Luke 5:9-11

- 9 For he was astonished, and all that were with him, at the draught of the fishes which they had taken:
- 10 And so was also James, and John, the sons of Zebedee, which were partners with Simon. And Jesus said unto Simon, Fear not; from henceforth thou shalt catch men.
- 11 And when they had brought their ships to land, they forsook all, and followed him.

*Verse 11 reports to us the same truth we learned in Matthew 4:17-20.*

Matthew 4:17-20

- 17 From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.
- 18 And Jesus, walking by the sea of Galilee, saw two brethren, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea: for they were fishers.
- 19 And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.
- 20 And they straightway left their nets, and followed him.

*Clearly, they didn't forsake all for a stranger. They had seen Him baptized and heard John the Baptist proclaim, "Behold, the Lamb of God." They had watched Him turn water into wine at Cana and saw Him return from the wilderness full of the Holy Spirit and power. They had watched and listened as He taught in the synagogue with authority and healed the sick. And their near catastrophic catch at His command convinced them that there was more to life than fish. When He made the offer to make them fishers of men, they were ready.*

## 3. A Developing (Changing) Relational Ministry

*Simon experienced a dynamic relationship with the Lord. Not only did his relationship to Jesus change with each step, his job description was also altered.*

A. Stranger

*Prior to hearing of or meeting Jesus, Simon had the same relationship with Him as those who don't know the Lord: stranger. The Lord was a stranger to Simon. But their first encounter shows that Simon wasn't a stranger to the Lord.*

B. Disciple

Matthew 5:1

And seeing the multitudes, he went up into a mountain: and when he was set, his disciples came unto him:

*Peter was part of the mountain top crowd. He became a follower of Jesus when he answered the invitation to become a fisher of men.*

C. Apostle

Luke 6:12-14

12 And it came to pass in those days, that he went out into a mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God.

13 And when it was day, he called unto him his disciples: and of them he chose twelve, whom also he named apostles;

14 Simon, (whom he also named Peter,) and Andrew his brother, James and John, Philip and Bartholomew,

*After an all night prayer vigil, Jesus commissioned Peter along with eleven others as His sent representatives, His apostles. No longer were they just following Him. Now they were going out proclaiming Him.*

D. Servant

John 15:15a "Henceforth I call you not servants;"

*The word translated "servants" is the Greek word doulos, which means "bond slave." Simon had moved from stranger to disciple, to commissioned representative, to sold-out bond slave to . . .*

E. Friend

John 15:15

Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you.

*On the night of His betrayal, the Lord draws His disciples in even closer and confers the status of "friends" upon them by confiding in them all the Father had told Him.*

F. Shepherd

John 21:15-17

15 So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me more than these? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my lambs.

16 He saith to him again the second time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my sheep.

17 He saith unto him the third time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third time, Lovest thou me? And he said unto him, Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love thee. Jesus saith unto him, Feed my sheep.

*Ultimately, as proof of his love for the Master, Peter was called to be a shepherd. Each calling and transition in the relationship did not cancel out the previous status quo; rather, it built upon it. Though a friend of the Lord's, he was still the Master's servant. Though an ordained apostle, he saw himself as a shepherd.*

1 Peter 5:1-4

1 The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed:

2 Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind;

3 Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock.

4 And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.

### **III. A Changed Man**

#### 1. "When Thou Art Converted"

Luke 22:31-34

31 And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat:

32 But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren.

33 And he said unto him, Lord, I am ready to go with thee, both into prison, and to death.

34 And he said, I tell thee, Peter, the cock shall not crow this day, before that thou shalt thrice deny that thou knowest me.

*Jesus had no misconceptions about Peter. He knew his weaknesses and shortcomings. He knew when that the devil was after His disciple and He interceded for him (as He does for us continually<sup>3</sup>).*

*The Lord told Simon that when he was converted, he was to strengthen his brethren. The word translated "strengthen" is sterizo, which means to establish. It is the same*

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<sup>3</sup> Hebrews 7:25

*Greek word from which we get “steroid.” Peter was to establish his fellow apostles and the church.*

1 Peter 5:8-11

8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

9 Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.

10 But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, **stablish**, strengthen, settle you.

11 To him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

*“Stablish” in verse ten is the same term sterizo. From his epistle we know that Peter was obedient to the Lord’s command in encouraging and establishing the church. He became a foundation stone upon which the church was built (Eph. 2:19-21).*

## 2. An Uneducated Man

Acts 4:13

Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marvelled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus.

*The rulers and leaders in Jerusalem knew that Peter and John had not had a classical education. They hadn’t gone to the right schools or been trained by approved rabbis. And yet they marveled at their boldness and took note that they had been with Rabboni, Yeshua ben David*

*Peter was a fisherman from Galilee. In the estimation of the religious and social echelon of Jerusalem, he was a troublesome country bumpkin. But was he unlearned and ignorant?*

*Peter’s first epistle was written to Jewish believers in Jesus who were not in Israel. In the King James Version it has 5 chapters with a total of 105 verses. In this short letter Peter addresses the following subjects: salvation, holiness, eternal life, the spiritual temple (at time when the Temple in Jerusalem was still standing!), submission to governmental authority (at a time when the infamous Nero reigned!), marriage, the believer’s suffering, Noah’s flood, baptism, church leadership, and eternal rewards. And if that seems packed, let us move on to consider his second epistle.*

*Second Peter was written primarily to the Gentile church. In the King James Version it has 3 chapters with a total of 61 verses. Following are just some of the subjects the Peter touches on in this letter: a divine educational program for guaranteed fruitfulness, the eternal kingdom of Jesus Christ, creation, new birth, how prophecy comes about, the affect of false prophets and teachers, the judgment of angels, Noah’s flood, how an animal could talk, the structure of the universe, the end of this world, the nature of the new heavens and the new earth, and commentary on other Christian writings of his day!*

*Peter may have been an unlearned and ignorant man at some point in his life. But being with Jesus, the Master Teacher, changed all that. His two short epistles are a window into a man with much depth of insight and knowledge about the ways of God, the world he lived in, and the reward he was going to.*

### 3. Shaped by the Master's Hand

*Jesus was the master of Peter's life. He found him as a gruff fisherman and trained and shaped him as a fisher of men. The man who impulsively bragged of his tenacity and commitment and then ran in the day of trouble became the man who faithfully bore witness of his Lord in the face of much adversity and loved not his life even unto death.*

*Jesus defined Simon when he gave him a new name. He then shaped the course of his life by laying out his life's work, the manner of his death, and the rewards for his faithful service.*

#### A. The work of his life.

John 21:15-17

15 So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me more than these? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my lambs.

16 He saith to him again the second time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my sheep.

17 He saith unto him the third time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third time, Lovest thou me? And he said unto him, Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love thee. Jesus saith unto him, Feed my sheep.

*Peter's love for the Lord was to be proved by the caring of His flock. Peter was tasked with feeding His sheep. As his epistles show, feeding the flock of God was a task that occupied him until the end of his days.*

#### B. The manner of his death.

John 21:18-19

18 Verily, verily, I say unto thee, When thou wast young, thou girdedst thyself, and walkedst whither thou wouldest: but when thou shalt be old, thou shalt stretch forth thy hands, and another shall gird thee, and carry thee whither thou wouldest not.

19 This spake he, signifying by what death he should glorify God. And when he had spoken this, he saith unto him, Follow me.

*Peter had rashly said once that he was prepared to die **with** the Lord Jesus<sup>4</sup>. In their closing hours together on earth, the Lord showed Peter that he would die **for** Him. As he had been told numerous times before, taking up his cross and following Jesus would be the cost of his discipleship. The cost for us is no less.*

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<sup>4</sup> Mark 14:31

C. A faithful finish.

2 Peter 3:12-15

12 Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?

13 Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.

14 Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless.

15 And account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you;

*Peter looked forward to a new heavens and a new earth and was diligent to be found in peace, without spot, and blameless.*

2 Peter 1:10-16

10 Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall:

11 For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

12 Wherefore I will not be negligent to put you always in remembrance of these things, though ye know them, and be established in the present truth.

13 Yea, I think it meet, as long as I am in this tabernacle, to stir you up by putting you in remembrance;

14 Knowing that shortly I must put off this my tabernacle, even as our Lord Jesus Christ hath shewed me.

15 Moreover I will endeavour that ye may be able after my decease to have these things always in remembrance.

16 For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty.

*Before His ascension, the Lord told Peter how he was going to die: crucifixion. Here, Peter records that the Lord was faithful and showed him the when. Sometime not long after the writing of his last epistle, the Apostle Peter died on a cross in Rome at the hands of Nero. Considering himself unworthy to suffer as his Lord, he requested to be crucified upside down.*

### **Conclusion**

*Because of Jesus, the man who had denied his Master three times suffered a martyr's death for he refused to deny the Hands that had shaped him. By the grace of God, the vacillating Simon had become a solid and stable Stone. Truly, he had been with Jesus.*