

Lectures on the life of Peter

Part 1

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Note: This text is a computer generated transcript of the sermon. In some cases it may contain errors.

[00:00:00] So shall we turn to the first chapter of John's Gospel. I believe we have here in this chapter what we might call Peter's conversion and we'll read from verse 35 down through verse 42 John 1 35 again the next day after John stood in two of his disciples and looking upon Jesus as he walked he said behold the Lamb of God and the two disciples heard him speak and they followed Jesus then Jesus turned and saw them following and said unto them what seek ye they said unto him rabbi which is to say being interpreted master where dwellest thou he said unto them come and see [00:01:03] they came and saw where he dwelt and abode with him that day for it was about the 10th hour one of the two which heard John speak and followed him was Andrew Simon Peter's brother he first find that his own brother Simon and said unto him we have found the messiah which is being interpreted the Christ and he brought him to Jesus and when Jesus beheld him thou art Simon the son of Jonah thou shalt be called Cephas which is by interpretation a stone this is the first reference that we get in the in the gospels to Simon Peter and this this chapter itself is really very important as we see here these different ones [00:02:11] who were from Galilee and they probably had been up to Jerusalem at one of the feasts and were on their way back and they had gone down to the river Jordan and then would make their way up the Jordan valley and cross back across the river away up further north to go back to Galilee and they found themselves there listening to John the Baptist as the people had gathered to all parts to hear John now it tells us here in verse 37 that two of John's disciples heard him speak and they followed Jesus [00:03:04] and it says in verse 40 one of the two which heard John speak and followed him was Andrew Simon Peter's brother now we're not told who the other one was but it's been suggested that it could well have been John himself who's writing this epistle and this gospel because John never refers to himself personally toward the end of the gospel we find him referring to himself several times as that disciple whom Jesus loved i'm just suggesting it possibly the other one could have been John Andrew was there Peter was there and and it says of Andrew in verse 40 that he in verse 41 he find that he first find that his own brother Simon and said unto him we have found the messiahs which is being [00:04:05] interpreted to Christ and Andrew found the Lord and abode with the Lord as it says because it says in verse 39 they said they they had said to the Lord in the 38th verse master where dwellest thou he said to them come and see they came and saw where he dwelt and abode with him that day it was about the 10th hour you know it's usually taken that the 10th hour was just two hours before night according to the Jewish reckoning now my personal view is that the 10th hour in John's gospel was was the same as what we would call 10 o'clock and the reason i say this is that apparently john gives roman time where the other three gospels give jewish time and we know that john's john's gospel john's writings were written a long time after the others john's gospel his [00:05:08] epistles and the revelation were written about 60 about the year 60 a.d that about the year 90 a.d rather which would be 60 years after the death of the lord

jesus about so that john comes in a long time afterwards and the reason why it seems that he gives roman time and not jewish time that we gather from the accounts of the crucifixion itself you cannot fit in the hours given as to the time of the truth of the events in the crucifixion in john with the other three gospels unless you take into account that john is giving roman time and the others are giving jewish time so if that's the case they spent the whole day we might say with the lord from 10 o'clock in the morning until evening they're with the lord and they're so occupied [00:06:04] with the lord the time that they spent with him that andrew says i just can't keep this to myself i've got to go and tell my daughter so it says he first you notice that before he goes and talks to anybody else he first find that his own brother simon and said unto him we found the messiah and it says he brought him to jesus what a lovely lesson for us beloved if we have found the lord and we have enjoyed the lord's company and have learned to love him what better thing can we do can tell others about him our loved ones first those nearest to us and then also to let others know you know we're not told a great deal about andrew in the scriptures he's not one of the prominent apostles such as peter and john are he's mentioned in connection with the feeding [00:07:02] of the five thousands it was andrew who says there's a lad here who has five loaves and two fishes and very little said about andrew but uh this is something very important about him that while andrew was not a very prominent a very prominent apostle he brought one to jesus who became a very prominent apostle you have often thought that when you see peter on the day of pentecost preaching and three thousand are saved andrew had something to do with that too because he was the one who had brought his own brother simon originally to jesus when the lord says to him in verse 42 they are simon the son of thou shalt be called cephas which is by interpretation a stone and cephas is the same as the word peter and the word cephas or the word peter means a stone and of course this was this is [00:08:09] the name by which he became known we don't find him further on spoken of as simon so much as peter and the epistles that he wrote are not the epistles of simon they're the epistles of peter peter became the name by which he was known and is still known to the present day throughout the christian world as peter simon peter but especially peter and so the lord gives him this name cephas you know you find in the scripture that when someone gives someone else a name that it implies that that person who gives the new name has authority over the one to whom he gives it the lord changed abraham abram's name to abraham and syriac to sarah and jacob's to israel and so we find that the lord is exercising his sovereignty over the one who belongs to him [00:09:06] to him we find in the book of daniel that maybe you could never change the names of daniel and his companions and because he had authority over them at least over their bodies he didn't have it over their souls as we know and even though he changed daniel's name to belshazzar daniel still is known by the name of daniel the name that uh that speaks of god because the word daniel means god is the judge and these other other three friends their names all had the name of god embodied in them and the names that were given to them of course were names that had referred to subservience to to the idols but i have no doubt that in their hearts they never accepted those names but the names did show that they were subservient to king nebuchadnezzar as [00:10:02] far as the position they occupied in the land now here we found the lord exercising his equality over simon peter and peter no doubt recognizes the lord as the one that he's serving to follow he comes to know the lord and he becomes lord to him and how that should be with us beloved we belong to him and we should recognize his sovereignty over us and his lordship over us now we'll turn back to matthew's gospel and there we will read a verse or two and i want to read the incident that we have here in matthew and in mark and also in luke matthew chapter 4 and verse 18 and jesus walking by the sea of galilee saw two brethren simon peter and andrew his brother [00:11:08] casting a net into the sea for they were fishers and he said unto them follow me and i will make you fishers of men and they straightway left their nets and followed him and going on from thence he saw other two brethren james the son of zebedee and john his brother in a ship with zebedee their father mending their nets and he called them and they

immediately left the ship and their father and followed him now we turn to to mark's gospel the first chapter of mark where we have the parallel reference and we read in mark 1 and verse 16 now as he walked by the sea of galilee he saw simon and andrew his brother casting a net into the sea for they were fishers and jesus said unto them [00:12:04] come ye out to me and i will make you to become fishers of men and straightway they took their nets and followed him and when he had gone a little farther he saw james the son of zebedee and john his brother who also were in the ship mending their nets and straightway he called them and they left their father zebedee in the ship with the hired servants and went after him and you notice one or two little differences between matthew and mark and these differences are not unimportant when we find differences in the scripture uh for some reason in mark the lord says i will not i will make you fishers of men he says i will make you to become fishers of men and you notice that mark also mentions that zebedee had hired servants but when james and john left for that they left their father zebedee with the hired servants it's not mentioned in [00:13:06] and i'll refer to that a little later but i want to read the portion now in luke that at least it's connected with this it's a different incident but these three are connected the fifth of luke and it came to pass that as the people pressed upon him to hear the word of god he stood by the lake of denison and saw two ships standing by the lake but the fishermen were gone out of them and were washing their nets 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 now when he had left the people he said unto simon launch out into the deep and let down your nets for a draft and simon answering said unto him master we've done all and taken nothing nevertheless if i would i will let down the net and when they have this done [00:14:05] they enclosed a great multitude of fishes and their net break and they get them down to their partners which were in the other ship that they should come and help them and they came and filled those ships so that they began to sink when simon peter saw it he fell down at jesus knees saying depart from me for i am a sinful man oh lord for he was astonished from all that were with him at the draft of the fishes which they had taken and so was also james and john the sons of zebedee which were partners with simon and jesus said unto simon fear not and henceforth thou shalt catch men and when they have brought their ships to land and followed him now going back we are now up in galilee [00:15:05] andrew and peter have gone back it's possible that they went with the lord because after the lord is that five of john and river jordan there we're told that he returned into galilee and he began his ministry in galilee and so these two go back and if john was the other disciple mentioned he went back too and uh here in the sea of galilee and as we have the record here in matthew and mark the lord comes along and he sees these 15 companies of fishermen and it tells us it tells us of peter and andrew that when the lord came they were cast in the net [00:16:01] and a little further on you find james and and john with zebedee their father and they're mending their nets you know it's here we get the lord calling peter to be a disciple john one day that's peter's conversion he came to jesus that's the first step where the lord calls him to be his disciple and you know i think sometimes and we think we refer to the 12 apostles as 12 disciples often and i think sometimes we forget that now some were called to be specially apostles that there was a special way we were all called to be disciples and of course they were called to be disciples in a special sense that they were to follow the lord and he made them apostles but they were all called to be disciples in the sense that we're all called to learn of him and follow him a disciple is one who follows his master follows his teacher [00:17:06] and that's what every christian should be a disciple of the lord and you notice that when the lord calls peter and andrew they're not idle you know the lord doesn't call people to his work because they're doing nothing you find right through scripture that whenever the lord called anyone to do something for himself he called the person who was busily occupied in the work that he had in hand and here we find andrew and simon peter the very time the lord called them they're busy casting them into the sea they were fishermen and they were about their business when he called james and john they're not actually casting them

up but they're doing a very important work in connection with the fishermen they are mending their nets because you know the nets get holes in them and if the nets are not mended the fish get away [00:18:07] so that's a very very important thing when we come over to the to the fifth chapter look that we read there in that incident we find that they're washing their nets and that's very important too because the nets get dirty so in each of these instances we have something important they're casting a net they're mending nets and they're washing nets and beloved as the lord called peter and he said unto them come you after me and i'll make you to become fishes of men they weren't just going to be fishes of fish in the sea of galilee there are going to be fishes of men i believe the lord intended that in fishing for men there were important lessons to carry into important [00:19:01] things to be put into practice that we learn from fishing for fish if you want to catch fish you have to cast the net you have to go where the fish are and cast the net you know if the fisherman doesn't sit down and invite the fish to come into his net he goes out where the fish are and he makes an effort to get the net out there where the fish are and that's what we have to do if we want to catch souls we have to seek opportunities from the lord to find where they are and meet them where they are to bring them to christ we also find that we have to have to mend our nets and we have to wash our nets that is we have to have times of fellowship and communion with the lord that we might have our nets mended and ready to catch the fish they have to be kept clean and that we might be usable instruments in the lord's hand to do his work the perfect lessons there let us beloved take them home to our house so the lord [00:20:03] calls peter and andrew and it says he says to them follow me and i will make you fishes of men i'll make you to become as it says in mark fishes of men and the lord can make us to become fishes of men well you might say i'm only a sister and i'm not going to preach the gospel yes i know it has a lot of sisters to do in reaching souls you can give out tracts you can speak to people you can teach a sunday school class i believe that the lord has a work for every brother and sister in the assembly and i believe that we should be exercised from the very youngest fathers what is the work that the lord has for me to do what is it where's the special place now i fit in to do something in the lord's service and the lord will show you just what he has for you to do i want to notice that i already mentioned in connection with matthew in barth's gospel the mark's reference to this that it says of of of um james and john down in verse 20 of mark one [00:21:10] straightway he called them and they left their father zebedee in the ship with the hired servant after him peter we know had a wife not told whether andrew had one or not and i'm going to refer them in to peter peter's wife uh she was not told about anything about james and john whether they were married or not but they did have an aged father and they just didn't go off and leave their father as it were which wouldn't have been the right thing either you know i think we learned from all this that uh if we have responsibilities we must see that the responsibilities are not and uh james and john [00:22:05] they were partners with their father and he was an older man of course and it might have been a grievous burden to him if they'd just gone off and left him without anyone to help him in the business but mark distinctly tells us that they left him in the ship with the hired servants i like that but let's just see you see that that they just didn't go off and forget their father they saw that their father had those who could help him in the business that he was provided they employed servants and these servants were there to help their father so they just didn't go off and leave him with no one to help him in his old age because we know that even in the even when the lord was here there were those that uh would set aside the commandment that said honor on my father honor my father and my mother by saying that if they the money that they should have given to their father and mother but they gave it to the lord then they didn't have to [00:23:04] support their father and mother and the lord found fault with him he says you've set aside the commandment of god by your tradition so i think this lets us see that james and john honor their father in not going off and leaving him without those who could help him they said well father god the lord has called us but we know that we were able to manage the business with the hired servants and so they felt that their responsibility in that sense was taken care

now let me come over to luke's gospel we have a little bit of an incident here as you notice and it seems as if there's a contradiction here with matthew and mark both tell us that when the lord calls uh great peter and andrew and james and john they all forsake their ships and follow him immediately immediately follow him but here we have a different incident which seems to me [00:24:07] occurred must have occurred around the same time but nothing but not uh uh what i mean is occurred just shortly afterwards not just uh it's not exactly the same incident it's an incident that's connected these incidents are connected and sometimes in scriptures you find what it seems that one thing immediately follows another but it really doesn't because sometimes the interval of time comes in between that uh it is not taken account of you have to be doesn't forget the lord here is preaching i think this incident in march will come shortly after the other they haven't left yet left their ships fully to follow them on [00:25:01] may have been about uh this is preparatory to them completely leaving everything to follow them on but they stopped fishing uh they they brought everything ashore and they're cleaning up earlier nets so that they leave everything in good order peter and andrew and peter no doubt they would pass their business over to somebody else or maybe zebedee and the hired servants took over their business or maybe they sold it but whatever they did they would have to leave everything in order the nets all mended the nets all washed everything in order to hand over to someone else and you can imagine james and john doing the same they think well now we're leaving the business uh father's going to take it over now with the uh the hired servants so we've got to leave everything in order so there they are washing the nets and uh and that is wants to speak [00:26:01] a great crowd gathered it says in verse one it came to pass that as the people pressed upon him to hear the word of god he stood by the lake of denisareth which is another name for the sea of galilee and saw two ships standing by the lake but the fishermen were gone out of them and were washing their nets and he entered into one of the ships which was simon's and told him that he would cast out a little from the land and he sat down and talked the people out of the ship now you see the uh the uh there's already a relationship here between the lord and simon simon had come to the lord down by the river jordan simon had had a call from the lord as we saw in mac matthew and mac so the lord already knows simon and simon knows the lord so without any sight he goes on board simon's ship and makes a saying well simon i know that you'll let me [00:27:03] use my use your ship for a pulpit but just just flushed out a little from the land so that the people can all sit down on the on the sand because i want to speak to them and so he did we're not told here what what the lord taught but we do have instances in the new testament of some of the lord's discourses what's known as the sermon on the mount but we ensure that the lord gave them some very precious instruction as he spoke to them but the spirit of god hasn't seemed fit to record it here now when he thought he wants to pay simon for the use of his boat the lord's no man's better you know and there's nothing that we do for the lord that the lord doesn't take notice of it says even a cup of cold water given in the name of a disciple will not lose its reward and so the lord says simon now uh first up uh launch out into the deep he says simon and look down your next paragraph [00:28:03] launch out into the deep now we have to do that there's a hymn that says on that line about launching out into the deep and sometimes in the lord's service the lord calls it launch out into the deep getting the shallow waters and not catching any fish and the lord calls us to just move a little and to launch out into the deep and peter says to the lord hey lord we've toiled all night and caught nothing but that by world he says i'll look down the net uh you notice there's a little uh play on words here it says the lord says in verse four let down your nets but it says peter says master we've toiled all night and taken nothing nevertheless of my word i will let down the net singular he just lets down the one net [00:29:02] and the lord told him to let down the nets apparently peter's faith didn't didn't go that far but he was willing to let down the nets and it says that when he did that they enclosed a great multitude of fishes this was this was a revelation to peter as we see in verse in verse five it would be it would be toiled night and nothing peter had toiled all night and taken nothing and now if the lord's word in the broad daylight

where you don't usually catch fish it's at night time that the fish are more easily caught the lord who is the who is the master of the seas who is the son of man who has authority over the fish of the sea as it says in the eighth psalm he calls the fish to be there and there were so many the net was so full that they couldn't fight them they had to call their [00:30:06] partners in the other boat to come and help them and even then both of their ships began to sink with the great multitude of fishes what's the lesson that peter learns in this peter has learned who the lord is and he's apparently gets a great sense of his own unworthiness because it says when simon peter saw it he fell down at jesus knees saying depart from me for i'm a sinful man oh lord for he was astonished and all that were within at the drop of the fishes that they'd taken did peter really want the man to depart from him no what he really said was lord i'm not fit that you should be near me i'm not fit that you should come near me lord i'm a sinful man he got a he got a picture of himself something like joe did [00:31:06] when he said i've heard of me but by the healing of the earth but now my life's free of faith and i abhor myself and repent in dust and ashes or like isaiah you know in the sixth chapter of isaiah in the previous chapter chapter five of isaiah he's pronouncing woe and woe and rose on all these different ones but when he gets a glimpse of the lord in the glory there in the sixth chapter isaiah says woe is me and then when he realized that that the angel came with a coal off the altar and touched his lips and he was sent forth with a message i think in all of these we see uh that's a preparation for service and i think that's what we get here with peter he's got a he's got a view of his own unworthiness and of the lord's worthiness and beloved this is a lesson we all have to learn we have to realize that in ourselves [00:32:05] we are nothing and that the lord's everything perhaps i suppose before this peter thought he was a pretty good fisherman no doubt he was but he found there was one far greater than he and he's the one in whose presence he now realizes how small he is how little he is so you are in a position that the lord can use him and it says in verse 11 when they have the lord's or rather the lord says in verse at the end of verse 10 and jesus said unto simon fear not the men's fourth hour shall catch me and when we have brought the ships to land they have brought the ships to land they for sitting on and following and no doubt that not only refers to peter but it refers to andrew and james and john a sickle and follow jesus [00:33:03] and so we have these four men and peter of course especially as the one whose life we're taking up here these four men they follow jesus there are one more scripture that i want to turn to for tonight and that is turning back to mark's gospel again in the first chapter mark one we will read verse 28 and immediately his fame spread abroad throughout all the region round about galilee and forthwith when they were come out of the synagogue they entered into the house of simon and andrew with james and john but simon's wife's mother lay sick of a fever and the man may tell [00:34:04] him of her and he came and took her by the hand and lifted her up and immediately the fever left her and she ministered unto them and then it goes on and says even when the sun did set they brought for him all that were diseased and men that were possessed with devils and so forth and so on now here we have the next incident in the life of silent peter as we said before peter is a married man and it's been suggested that very possibly when peter told his wife that he'd been called to follow jesus when he was giving up his living as a fisherman she might have quite well been quite she might have quite well been quite worried about where the money was going to come from [00:35:01] where the bread and butter was going to come from that would be a very natural thing for a wife and now her mother is sick as luke tells us with a great fever besides that the lord has come into the house as it says in verse 29 with simon and andrew and james and john no doubt she was quite concerned how was she going to be able to attend to her sick mother and those who were there but it says and then they tell him of her luke says they'd be sorting for her and immediately the lord lays his hands on her and the fever leaves her further it says and she ministered unto them you can quite well imagine now that peter's wife is fully satisfied [00:36:08] and one who could raise up her mother from a sick bed could take care of their needs and what a lesson this is for all of the lord's servants to be able just to trust the lord not only for those who are called to serve him but if they have

other responsibilities if a man is married his wife can trust the lord also they need to be able to trust the lord together they need to be able to trust the lord together and to go forward together in the pathway of faith and the lord always meets every need sometimes we think the financial needs of the lord's servants are the greatest and it's our privilege to minister to them in connection with these needs [00:37:05] but they have spiritual needs and other needs as well so we need to pray to not to forget to pray for all the needs of the lord's servants we have a further thought here in connection with the fever she couldn't minister to them when she had a fever and how many there are who try to serve the lord with a fever they get an idea that the lord has something for them to do and they run around here and there in feverish activity with no blessing or little blessing on what they're doing how necessary it is for us to allow the lord to rebuke the fever so that we might sit like mary at jesus feet and hear his word [00:38:01] and learn what his mind is so that we can go forth and serve him perhaps also we have another lesson in this portion we know that today it's a very common thing to make jokes about mothers-in-law peter received his mother-in-law into his own home and cared for her there and the lord certainly encouraged his wife in raising her up from the sick bed that she might be able to serve them all in doing this the lord was giving the proof of his messiahship that he was the one of whom the prophets had said would heal diseases thus both peter and his wife [00:39:04] must have been greatly encouraged at the outset of their service for the lord and would go forth and would go forward in his service with all confidence