

Peter Disciple of Jesus



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by

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The Call of Peter

Peter was a fisherman. But today he was really tired. He had been out all night sailing on the lake, trying to catch fish. But he had not caught a single one. He was disappointed.

But who is this coming up by the side of the lake? It is Jesus. Peter had seen Him before. He knew Him and loved Him. I am sure he was pleased to see Him.

Jesus asked Peter if He could borrow his boat, to sit in while He spoke to the people. Wherever He went Jesus spoke to people about His Father, and about the way to heaven. There must have been a lot of people listening to Him. And, of course, Peter was pleased to lend Jesus his boat.

When Jesus had finished, He said something to Peter. “Go out onto the lake, and catch some fish.” But – he had been fishing all night – he was weary – he hadn’t caught anything! But Peter knew what Jesus said must be right. So he did exactly what Jesus told him. We must do what Jesus says.

But what is happening now? Fish after fish is swimming into Peter’s net. It was wonderful. They had a job to get all the fish back to the shore, there were so many. Yes, Jesus knew where the fish were, and He had power to draw the fish to Peter’s ship and into Peter’s net.

Peter realised now that Jesus was different. He was almighty. He was holy and good. He was the Son of God.

Suddenly Peter was frightened. Who am I to be here with this great and wonderful Person? See, he is kneeling at Jesus' feet. He feels He is too good for him. Surely He must leave him.

But no! Jesus loved Peter. "Don't be frightened!" He said. "From now on I want you to leave everything and come and be with Me all the time."

So Peter did. He left his boats and his nets. He was no longer a fisherman. He was a disciple of Jesus – and he would follow Him wherever He went. It is a wonderful thing to be a follower of Jesus.

You can read this story in Matthew, chapter 4, verses 18 to 22; Mark, chapter 1, verses 16 to 18; and Luke, chapter 5, verses 1 to 11.

“Jesus calls us! o’er the tumult
Of this life’s wild, restless sea;
Day by day His sweet voice soundeth,
Saying, ‘Christian, follow Me.’”

Walking on the Sea

Peter had often been out fishing on the lake, but one night he and his friends, the other disciples, were terrified.

Jesus had told them to get into a ship and sail to the other side. They were always glad to do what Jesus told them. But one thing He had not told them – where He was going. He was not going to be with them. He was going up to the top of a mountain. Jesus often liked to be alone – to pray. He often taught His disciples to pray.

But now it was dark. They were in the middle of the lake. The wind was howling. The waves were throwing the ship about. No wonder they were frightened. Was the boat going to sink? Would they all be drowned?

For a long time they tried to keep the boat safe. They struggled to get to the other side. They even got oars and tried their hardest to row. But it was no good!

But suddenly! What is this? Through the dark they can just see something coming towards them. They were so frightened they all cried out. What was it? Was it a ghost?

Do you know who it was? It was Jesus who knew what was happening, and had come to rescue them. But how did He get there? Walking on the water. It was impossible. But Jesus can do anything. He can perform miracles.



Peter was so delighted. He loved Jesus so much. But now he was very brave! He called out to Jesus, asking Him if he too could walk on the water to come to Jesus. It was very daring, but Peter was not afraid because his Lord and Master had said, “Come!”

See Peter walking on the waves – doing something no one had ever done before. But not for long! Poor Peter hears the wind whistling, and looks down at the deep water – and he starts sinking. He is terrified.

“Lord, save me!” he cries. He knows no one can help him but Jesus. And Jesus reaches out a strong, kind, loving arm, and catches hold of him. He holds him fast. And He does not let him go until He has brought him into the ship.



That is a good prayer for girls and boys, “Lord, save me” – when we are frightened or in trouble, but especially, “Save me from my sins.” Jesus is an almighty Saviour.

The sea was now calm. Jesus was in the boat with them, and it was not long before they were at the other side.

Peter would have a lot to remember (wouldn't he?) but so would all the disciples. They now knew who Jesus was. They said, “Truly Thou art the Son of God.”

You can read this story in Matthew, chapter 14, verses 22 to 33.

“Jesus is a mighty Saviour;
Helpless souls have here a Friend.”

Peter's Confession

Altogether there were twelve disciples. Wherever Jesus went, they went with Him. They must have had some happy times, listening to Him talking to them, and watching the wonderful things He did. Peter saw Him make blind people see, those who were lame walk, and he was there with Him when He made a little girl who was dead come back to life.

But do you know, sometimes Jesus only took three of His disciples with Him – and one of them was always Peter.

On one occasion Jesus took all of them to a beautiful place with a very long name – Caesarea Philippi. It is really lovely there. They had not been there before.

Suddenly Jesus asked them all what people were saying about Him. They told Him all kinds of things (and I am sure they only told Him the nice things). But then Jesus looked at them all and asked them a question. Who do *you* think I am?

And Peter knew the answer, didn't he? So he answered quickly before any of the others. He knew that Jesus was not just an ordinary man. He knew He was different. He had seen the wonderful things He could do. He was the Son of God. So Peter said so.

And Jesus was pleased. How glad He was that Peter had learned this lesson! It was God in heaven who had taught him. We too need God to teach us.

Crowds of people kept following Jesus. But lots

of them didn't stay. If anything upset them, they left and went away.

One day this was happening, and Jesus said to His own disciples, "Are you going to follow them? Are you going to leave Me too?"

And, as usual, Peter was the first to speak. How could he leave Jesus, the Saviour he loved so much? What would he do? Where would he go?

"No, Lord," he said, "we can't. We know Thou art the Son of God. It would be a dreadful thing to leave Thee. We would have no hope. We couldn't be saved. We would never get to heaven."

How dearly Peter loved his Master!

You can read about this in Matthew, chapter 16, verses 13 to 18; Mark, chapter 8, verses 27 to 29; Luke, chapter 9, verses 18 to 20; and John, chapter 6, verses 66 to 69.



The Holy Mount

Jesus was always a poor man and often a very sad man. Many people were unkind to Him.

But one day it was different. He climbed to the top of a very high mountain. But He didn't go by Himself. He took three of His friends with Him. One was John. One was James. And, yes, the other was Peter. They must have been very happy to be alone with Jesus. But what was going to happen?

Soon they knew. Their Lord and Master, Jesus, looked different. They had never seen Him like this before. His face and all His clothes were shining brightly – more brightly than the glorious sun in the sky.

But as the three looked in amazement, there were two other people there. Who were they? How did they get there? As they looked, one was Moses, and the other? Elijah. It did not seem possible. These two men had lived a long, long time ago.

Now Jesus is talking with them. So Peter thinks he ought to say something. He didn't really know what to say, but he said, "Make three little tents, one for Jesus, one for Moses, one for Elijah." Why he said this we just don't know.

But what now? Peter and his friends did not know what to expect. A thick cloud comes down – and now they cannot see either Jesus, or Moses, or Elijah. Peter, James and John were frightened. And

then they heard a voice from heaven saying to Jesus, “This is My beloved Son.”

Then Jesus kindly came and said, “Don’t be afraid.” And they looked round, but they could see nobody – only Jesus. Moses and Elijah had disappeared.

Peter never forgot that wonderful day. Even when he was an old man he was still talking about it. It made him sure that Jesus was not an ordinary man. He is the Son of God.

You can read about The Mount of Transfiguration in Matthew, chapter 17, verses 1 to 8; Mark, chapter 9, verses 2 to 8; and Luke, chapter 9, verses 28 to 36. Peter himself wrote about this in his second Epistle, chapter 1, verses 16 to 18.

