

PETER #2 Following Jesus Lifelong

- I. **Peter's Initial Call to Follow Jesus** (Jn. 1:35-42; Luke 5:1-11)
 1. Peter meets Jesus (Jn. 1:35-42)
 - “Jesus said, ‘You are Simon... You shall be called Cephas’ (Peter).” (Jn. 1:42)
 - The promise of personal change--He is “Simon;” he will become “Peter”
 2. Peter is called --“Follow Me I’ll make you become fishers of men” (Luke 5:1-11; Mark 1:16-20)
 - “Jesus changes the course (trajectory) of Peter’s life
 - “Follow Me”--Jesus’ first command to Peter & others (Mk. 1:17; Matt. 9:9; Jn. 1:43)
- II. **Peter's Final Call to Follow Jesus** (John 21: 3-8, 18-22)
 - Reminded Peter of his initial call
 - Jesus’ call covered the whole of Peter’s life going forward (‘til his death)—Lifelong
 - It’s a personal call to Peter (& to us)
 - We’re called to follow *Christ* (not men, Mark 9:38; Gal. 4:17)
- III. **From Beginning to End we’re Called to Follow Jesus**
 1. Follow Jesus immediately; don’t procrastinate (Mark 1:20; Matt.8:21-22)
 2. Follow Jesus thro’ success & failure [e.g., Peter’s good confession (Mt. 16) & denial (Mt. 26)]
 3. Follow Jesus by self-denial, taking up cross (Matt. 10:38; 16:24)
 4. Following Jesus by serving Him (John 12:26)
 5. Follow Jesus by overcoming obstacles, hindrances (Matt. 19:21; Luke 9:61-62)
 6. Following Jesus, as sheep following the Good Shepherd (Jn. 10:4-5, 27-28; Rev. 14:4)
 7. Following Jesus Personally, not dictating to others (Mark 9:38-40; Luke 9:49-50)
 8. Following Christ, not men (1 Cor. 3:4)
- IV. **Following Jesus today via the Scriptures & the Spirit**
 1. The Scriptures testify about Jesus (Jn. 5:39; Luke 24:27)
 2. The Spirit testifies to Jesus (Jn. 15:26; 16:13; 1 Jn. 2:27)

PETER #2 Following Jesus Lifelong [Supp. Material]

I. Peter's Initial Call to Follow Jesus (Jn. 1:35-42; Luke 5:1-11)

1. Peter meets Jesus (Jn. 1:35-42)

- “Jesus said, ‘You are Simon the son of John. You shall be called Cephas’ (meaning Peter).” (Jn. 1:42)
- The promise of personal change--He is “Simon;” he will become “Peter”

2. Peter is called –“Follow Me” says Jesus (Luke 5:1-11; Mark 1:16-20)

“...Jesus was standing by the lake of Gennesaret, and he saw two boats by the lake... Getting into one of the boats, which was Simon's, he asked him to put out a little from the land. Jesus sat down and taught the people from the boat. And when he had finished speaking, Jesus said to Simon, “Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch.” Simon answered, “Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! But at your word I will let down the nets.” When they had done this, they enclosed a large number of fish, and their nets were breaking. They signaled to their partners in the other boat...and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, “Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord.” For he and all who were with him were astonished at the catch of fish that they had taken... Jesus said to Simon, “**Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men.**” When they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed him [Jesus].” (Luke 5:1-11)

“Passing alongside the Sea of Galilee, Jesus saw Simon and Andrew, his brother casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. Jesus said to them, “**Follow me, and I will make you become fishers of men.**” And immediately they left their nets and followed him. Going on a little farther, Jesus saw James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, who were in their boat mending the nets. And immediately he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired servants and followed him.” (Mark 1:16-20)

- About 5-6 months after Peter met Jesus
- “Jesus said, ‘Follow me, and I will make you become fishers of men’.” (Mk. 1:17)
- Jesus changes the course (trajectory) of Peter's life
- “Follow Me”--Jesus' first command to Peter (Mk. 1:17)
- “Follow Me”—Jesus' call to Matthew: “As Jesus passed on...he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth. Jesus said to him, “Follow me.” And Matthew rose and followed him.” (Matt. 9:9) Note: In Matthew's case Jesus reveals his unexpected definition of discipleship. The underappreciated are called to follow him, while the religious leaders resist him. *Matthew was sitting at the tax booth.* The Jews considered Matt. a traitor; collecting taxes entailed cooperation with the Roman occupiers. He *rose & followed Jesus.* Matt. likely witnessed Jesus' teaching & healings & was now ready to join Him. ESV
- “Follow Me”—Jesus' call to Philip: “He [Jesus] found Philip and said to him, ‘Follow me’.” (Jn. 1:43)
- Two “bookends” of Peter's calling in the Gospels (Mark 1; John 21)

II. Peter's Final Call to Follow Jesus (John 21: 3-8, 18-22)

“Simon Peter said to the disciples, “I'm going fishing.” They said to him, “We'll go with you.” They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing. Just as day was breaking, Jesus stood on the shore; yet the disciples didn't know it was Jesus. Jesus said to them, “Children, do you have any fish?” They answered, “No.” He said, “Cast the net on the right side of the boat, & you'll find some.” So they cast it, & now they were not able to haul it in, because of the quantity of fish. [John] said to Peter, “It is the Lord!” When Simon Peter heard it was the Lord, he...threw himself into the sea. The other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish... [Jesus told Peter] “Truly, truly, I say to you, when you were young, you ...walked wherever you wanted, but when you're old...another will ...carry you where you don't want to go.” (Jesus said this show that by death Peter was to glorify God.) After saying this Jesus said to him, “**Follow me.**” Peter turned and saw [John] following them ...When Peter saw John, he said to Jesus, “Lord, what about this man?” Jesus said to Peter, “If it is my will that he remain until I come, what is that to you? **You follow me!**” (John 21:3-8, 18-22)

Note: “*Stretch out your hands*” (21:18) was a way to convey the notion of crucifixion. Early evidence shortly after the NT mentions Peter’s martyrdom without telling how it happened. There are some later accounts that say Peter was crucified upside down, refusing to die the same kind of death as his Lord, but some of these are overlaid with legendary material that many scholars consider unreliable, so this tradition is uncertain. ESV.

- The unfolding events should’ve reminded Peter of his initial call (no fish, Jesus’ direction, big catch)
- This incident 3+ years after Peter’s initial call to follow Jesus. It’s after Jesus’ teaching, miracles, betrayal (by Judas) & Peter’s denial of Jesus, after Jesus’ death & resurrection. Still: “Follow Me”
- Jesus’ call to follow covered the whole of Peter’s life going forward (until his death)—Lifelong
- It’s a personal call to Peter (& to us)— ~ “Forget about John (others), you follow Me”
- Our primary responsibility is the follow *Christ* (not to follow men, Mark 9:38; Gal. 4:17)

III. From Beginning to End we’re Called to Follow Jesus

- A. Follow Jesus immediately (don’t procrastinate)
 - “Immediately Jesus called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired servants and followed him.” (Mark 1:20)
 - “Another disciple said to Jesus, ‘Lord, let me first go and bury my father.’ Jesus said to him, “**Follow me**, and leave the dead to bury their own dead.” (Matt.8:21-22) Note: “*leave the dead to bury their own dead*” (8:22). While Jesus clearly upholds the biblical command to honor father & mother (Matt. 15:1-9), the call to follow him rises above all other allegiances. Anything that hinders unqualified commitment to Him & to the new covenant family of faith must be set aside. ESV
- B. Follow Jesus thro’ success & failure [Peter’s good confession (Mt. 16:16) & denial (Mt. 26:69-75)]
- C. Follow Jesus by self-denial, taking up cross
 - “Whoever does not take his cross and **follow Me** is not worthy of Me.” (Matt. 10:38) **Note:** *take his cross*. Crucifixion is a shocking metaphor for discipleship. A disciple must deny himself (die to self-will), take up his cross (embrace God’s will, no matter the cost), and follow Christ. ESV
 - “Jesus told his disciples, ‘If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself, take up his cross and **follow Me**. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world & forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give in return for his soul? For the Son of Man is going to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, & then He will repay each person according to what he has done.’” (Matt. 16:24-27) **Note:** Each statement beginning with *for* (Gk. *gar*), provide three related reasons why a disciple must let go of his earthly life & take up his cross. *Whoever would save his life*. The one who rejects God’s will & instead pursues his own will for his life ultimately loses every earthly good he is trying to protect. “*Gains the whole world.*” Acquiring all this world’s money, pleasure, & power brings no lasting benefit if one *forfeits his soul* ESV
- D. Following Jesus by serving Him
 - “If anyone serves me, he must follow me...If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him.” (John 12:26)
- E. Follow Jesus by overcoming obstacles, hindrances (e.g. riches, family obligations, loyalties)
 - “Jesus said to him, ‘...go, sell what you possess & give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, **follow Me**.’” (Matt. 19:21) **Note:** Jesus knows this man’s wealth has become his means to personal identity, power, & a sense of meaning in life—that it has become the idolatrous god of his life. Jesus’ strategy is to turn this man...to examine his heart, revealing his ruling god. *Give to the poor*. The man had no doubt given some money to the poor, a pious duty, especially among the Pharisees. But Jesus calls him to give everything away, exchanging the god of wealth for the eternal *treasure* found in following Jesus as the one true God. Jesus’ ultimate answer to the question posed in Matt. 19:16 (“*What ...must I do to have eternal life?*”) is **follow Him**. ESV
 - “Going along the road, someone said to Jesus, “I will follow you wherever you go.” Jesus said to him, ‘Foxes have holes, & birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head.’ To another he said, “Follow me.” But he said, “Lord, let me first go & bury my father.” Jesus said to him,

“Leave the dead to bury their own dead. But as for you, go & proclaim the kingdom of God. Another said, ‘I will follow you, Lord, but let me first say farewell to those at my home.’ Jesus said, ‘No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God’.” (Luke 9:57-62) **Note:** *The Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head* (9:58) is Jesus’ challenge to a would-be follower, reminding him the path of following Jesus is not easy & comfortable, for ultimately Jesus is not at home in this world. To *go and bury* a deceased parent (9:59) was an important duty, & Jesus clearly upholds honoring one’s parents (Matt. 15:1-9). The request seems reasonable on the surface, but this man’s first response was not to obey Jesus immediately (as others did) but to make an excuse for not following him. Burial at this time in Judaism often involved a year-long period from the time when the body was first buried until a year later when the bones of the deceased were placed in an ossuary box. Though this was a basic family obligation, Jesus is teaching the priority of the kingdom over family. *Leave the dead to bury their own dead* (9:60) constitutes a pun in which “dead” means both “spiritually dead” & “physically dead.” Here Jesus insists that following him must take precedence over every other relationship & obligation. This does not imply that Jesus’ followers can never care for their family obligations, but when they do, it must be out of obedience to Jesus, not *instead of* obedience to Jesus. In this man’s case, Jesus was clearly not his highest commitment, “*Lord, I will follow you, but...*” (9:61) this man’s half-hearted discipleship begins with a “but”: “*I will follow you, Lord, but...*” This recalls 1 Kings 19:19-21, where Elijah permitted Elisha to *say farewell*; but Jesus does not permit this. Jesus’ summons to discipleship takes precedence over everything else. Anyone who *puts his hand to the plow* has to keep looking forward to guide the plow; if he *looks back* the plow will quickly veer off. ESV

F. Following Jesus, as sheep following the Good Shepherd

- “The shepherd brings out his own, he goes before them, and **the sheep follow him**, for they know his voice. A stranger they won’t follow; they’ll flee...for they don’t know the stranger’s voice.” (Jn. 10:4-5)
- “My sheep hear my voice, I know them, and **they follow me**. I give them eternal life...” (Jn. 10:27-28)
- “These are those who follow the Lamb wherever He goes.” (Rev. 14:4)

G. Following Jesus Personally, not dictating to others

- “John said to him, “Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because **he was not following us.**” But Jesus said, “Do not stop him, for no one who does a mighty work in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me. For the one who is not against us is for us.” (Mark 9:38-40)
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H. Following Christ, not men

- “One says, ‘I follow Paul,’ another, ‘I follow Apollos,’ are you not being merely human?” (1 Cor. 3:4)

IV. Following Jesus Today via the Scriptures & the Spirit

1. The Scriptures testify about Jesus

- Jesus told the Pharisees: “You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me” (Jn. 5:39)
- “Beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, Jesus interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.” (Luke 24:27)

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- “...the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about Me.” (Jn. 15:26)
- “When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth...” (Jn. 16:13)
- “The Anointing you received from him abides in you, and you have no need that anyone should teach you. But as his Anointing teaches you about everything, and is true, and is no lie—just as it has taught you, abide in him.” (1 Jn. 2:27)

PETER #2 Following Jesus Lifelong [Script]

PIX: Peter Bible miniseries

PIX: Peter fishing boat Sea of Galilee 1900

PIX: Peter Luke 5 Great catch of fish

PIX: Peter Luke 5 Great catch of fish 1

PIX: Peter Luke 5 Great catch of fish 2

PIX: Peter Luke 5 Jesus calls fishers

PIX: Peter Come Follow Me

PIX: Peter Following Jesus Luke 9

PIX: Peter Luke 5 We follow He makes us “fishers”

SONG: “I will make you fishers of men...if you follow me...”

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PIX: John Jesus calls disciples

PIX: Matt 9 v9 Follow Me (verse)

PIX: Peter I have decided to follow Jesus

PIX: Peter I have decided to follow Jesus (No turning back)

SONG: I have decided to follow Jesus (No turning back, No turning back)

- “Follow Me”—Jesus’ call to Matthew: “As Jesus passed on...he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth. Jesus said to him, “Follow me.” And Matthew rose and followed him.” (Matt. 9:9) Note: In Matthew’s case Jesus reveals his unexpected definition of discipleship. The underappreciated are called to follow him, while the religious leaders resist him. *Matthew was sitting at the tax booth*. The Jews considered Matt. a traitor; collecting taxes entailed cooperation with the Roman occupiers. He *rose & followed Jesus*. Matt. likely witnessed Jesus’ teaching & healings & was now ready to join Him. ESV
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PIX: Peter fishing boat Sea of Galilee 1900

PIX: John 21 great catch of fish

PIX: John 21 great catch to shore

PIX: John 21 disciples drag net

PIX: John 21 Boat at shore fire

PIX: John 21 Jesus cooked fish on shore

PIX: John 21 What Shall this Man Do?

PIX: John 21 v19b Follow Me

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P. Following Christ, not men

- “One says, ‘I follow Paul,’ another, ‘I follow Apollos,’ are you not being merely human?” (1 Cor. 3:4)

Jesus said “Follow Me” We don’t follow people (Men) we follow Jesus

PIX: Watchman Nee book cover

PIX: Witness Lee

We don’t follow Watchman Nee. This is not the church of Watchman Nee

We don’t follow Witness Lee. This is not the church of Witness Lee

We don't follow "students of W. Lee". This is not their church (either)

Jesus charged us to follow Him! This church follows Jesus Christ!

Watchman Nee said "The Bible is our only standard" OK let's apply that!

PIX: Bible Dove Holy Spirit symbol

VIII. Following Jesus Today via the Scriptures & the Spirit

3. The Scriptures testify about Jesus

- Jesus told the Pharisees: "You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me" (Jn. 5:39)
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