**Lesson 2 Week 2**: **The Apostle, The Pilgrims, and The Elect of God**

*Who was Peter the Apostle?*

When the Lord first met Simon, he was with his brother by the sea of Galilee. Read Matthew 4:17 – 22

***18*** *From the time Jesus began to preach and to say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." And Jesus, walking by the Sea of Galilee, saw two brothers, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. 19 Then He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men."20 They immediately left their nets and followed Him. 21 Going on from there, He saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets. He called them, 22 and immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed Him.*

Galilee (*of the Gentiles*) was geographically and politically cut off from Judea and had a less predominantly Jewish population. Its people were regarded by Judeans as uncultured and irreligious, and there is ample evidence of strained relations between the two provinces in NT times. As a Galilean in Jerusalem, Jesus was virtually a foreigner.[1]

With this background of Galilee, we can better understand why Jesus would begin speaking about The Kingdom of God to this people group. For God so loved the world!

From the text above we read that Jesus was *walking* by the Sea of Galilee. Walking in the text above in Greek is *peripateō* which means to walk about and tread a path. This would tell us that Jesus often walked by the Sea of Galilee, it was a familiar place. There He was able to witness the life of some fishermen and called these young working-class men to follow Him. These young men were not selected to become a "talmudee" to a rabbi (one who asks to follow the teaching of a particular rabbi), but were sent home to learn the trade of his father.

What can we learn about the **relationship** between Andrew and Simon, and James and John? (How were they related?) (Matt. 4:18, 21)

Take a minute and think about the relationship of brothers working in a fishing company. The scripture says Jesus saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew casting a net. The nets that were cast James and John worked with their father Zebedee. This work environment could get tough. The weather conditions, not catching enough fish that day to meet the demand of income. Cleaning and mending nets on a hot day…

…Can you imagine the comments coming out of the mouths of these fishermen from time to time?

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[1] France, R. T. (1994). Matthew. In D. A. Carson, R. T. France, J. A. Motyer, & G. J. Wenham (Eds.), *New Bible commentary: 21st century edition* (4th ed., p. 910). Leicester, England; Downers Grove, IL: Inter-Varsity Press.

A challenging task that the text mentioned was Jesus saw two *brothers casting a net into the sea.* Using the Bible tools recommended on line or with the actual books look up cast net or drag net fishing. Write your thoughts about how individuals would have to work together and what challenges they may face. This is free software https://www.logos.com/basic

Can you recall a time doing chores with your siblings when you were young, or being in a difficult work environment? Somehow you had to work through to resolve issues. Jesus came to teach us a kingdom way to handle those difficult relational issues.

Peter actually uses the fishing term to *cast* in this epistle. Applying what you learned about drag nets and cast nets, (both having some weight to them) why would Peter state the following:

***5*** *Likewise, you who are younger, be subject to the elders. Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."*
***6*** *Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you,* ***7*** ***casting*** *all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.* [2]

Why would we need grace to humble ourselves?

We have learned from the video that an Apostle was one who had seen Jesus and was sent. Let's dive into the scriptures for further evidence of this truth.

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[2] *The Holy Bible: English Standard Version*. (2016). (1 Pet. 5:5–7). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

***apóstolos***; means to send. Used as one sent, apostle, ambassador. Sometimes used as a synonym with *presbeutḗs*, ambassador, to act as an ambassador [3] It is also noted that the messenger can never be greater than the one who sends him.

(When answering questions write out the verse to the degree that it answers the question. This is how you learn that God has given us everything pertaining to life and godliness through His Word. Write any questions or insight you have after you've read the text in the margin space)

What does the Apostle Paul tell the church at Corinth in 2 Corin. 5:20 about being an ambassador?

How do we know Simon/Peter and Andrew did not initiate the task to follow Jesus? (Matt. 4:18)

When Andrew told his brother about Jesus, what did he say about Him? (John 1:40-41)

What did Jesus say after he looked at Simon? (John 1:42)

Cephas is translated *stone.* We get a better perspective of Peter being referred to as a rock or stone if we read His understanding of who "The Christ is". Read the following text:

**13** Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" **14** And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." **15** He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" **16** Simon Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." **17** And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. **18** And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. **19** I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."[4]

[3] Zodhiates, S. (2000). *The complete word study dictionary: New Testament* (electronic ed.). Chattanooga, TN: AMG Publishers.
[4] *The Holy Bible: English Standard Version*. (2016). (Mt 16:13–19). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

I once heard the late Derek Prince share about Peter's encounter and he broke the passage down into 4 stages.

1. Confrontation
2. Revelation
3. Acknowledgement
4. Confession

When Peter along with the disciples were asked by Jesus "Who do people say that The Son of Man is?" What was their response? (Matt 4:16)

Peter had a definite personal experience. According to Derek Prince, there were 4 successive stages in his experience.

When Jesus confronted Simon Peter face-to-face and asked "But who do you say that I am?" how did Peter respond? When *confronted*… (Matt. 4:16)

Jesus responded recognizing a revelation given to Peter alone. What did He say to Peter letting him know that it was a revelation? (Matt. 4:17)

It is important for each of us to know that we have our own personal encounter with The Lord Jesus understanding who He is.

How does John explain the role of the Holy Spirit in the place of spiritual revelation or understanding (John 16:13-14)?

Peter acknowledged what had been revealed to him by the Spirit of God.

How does John tell us that experiential faith is eternal? (John 17:3)

Peter confessed what he believed to be true when asked who did he say Jesus was. (Matt. 4:16)

Upon this rock of revelation of Jesus being the Christ… I will build My Church and the gates of Hell will not prevail against it!

Jesus shared with Simon Peter that upon his **revelation** of Him being the Christ, he would build his church ***ekklēsía***. This is the word actually has the meaning of the body of free citizens called together[5] to represent a particular group or party. It was a political term. In other words as Kingdom of God representatives our foundation of faith is acknowledging that Jesus is the Son of the living God. How does Romans 10:10 confirm this thought?

If we are children of God, we too have been sent as ambassadors to those in our sphere of influence. Our sphere of influence has much to do with where we have been called from. If we are in the work force, God may very well call you to reach those in your sphere of influence on the job as well as in your community (where you live).

The video questions asked the question: Who was this letter written to? (1 Peter 1:1)
It was a two-fold answer:

- To pilgrims or sojourners living in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia.
- A temporary resident, someone passing through.

Meditate on the following verses about being chosen (*ekletos)* and pilgrims one translation uses the word sojourner.
Ephesians 2:11-13

Ephesians 2:19-22

Hebrews 11:13

[5] Zodhiates, S. (2000). *The complete word study dictionary: New Testament* (electronic ed.). Chattanooga, TN: AMG Publishers