

The Making of a Disciple Simon Peter

*Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make **disciples** of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age."* **Matt 28:18-20** (NIV)

The command in the Great Commission is not to make converts but to make disciples. A basic definition of a disciple is to be a learner or a follower.

To be a disciple of Jesus is to learn His Word, walk in His ways, and to become like Him. Believers were first called Christians ("little Christs") at Antioch (Acts 11:26).

"Christianity without discipleship is always Christianity without Christ."

-Dietrich Bonhoeffer

How does a person become a disciple of Jesus? A biographical sketch of the life of Simon Peter provides a template of how Jesus brings us from being a fisher of fish to a fisher of men.

The Life of Peter Before He Met Jesus

- Simon (Hebrew name) was a fisherman around the Sea of Galilee along with his older brother Andrew. They were partners with James and John, the sons of Zebedee.
- He was married and originally from Bethsaida and later Capernaum around Galilee.
- Impetuous, rugged, bold, rough around the edges, sinful (Luke 5:8), lacked formal education (Acts 4:13). We like Peter because he is common; he is like us.

The Life of Peter When He Met Jesus

- Peter is introduced to Jesus by his brother Andrew – **John 1:40-42**
- Peter is called to be a fisher of men – **Matt 4:18-20**

- Peter walks on water – **Matt 14:28-32**
- Peter confesses that Jesus is the Christ – **Matt 16:16-18**
- Peter pledges his undying devotion – **Matt 26:31-35**
- Peter denies the Lord – **Luke 22:54-62**
- Peter is restored after the resurrection – **John 21:15-17**

The Life of Peter After Jesus Ascends

- Peter preaches at Pentecost – **Acts 2:14-16**
- Peter and John heal the cripple at the Temple – **Acts 3:1-10**
- Peter and the deaths of Ananias and Saphira – **Acts 5:1-11**
- Peter and the conversion of Cornelius – **Acts 10:1-8**
- Peter rebuked by Paul – **Gal 2:11-13**

Peter is credited with writing 1st and 2nd Peter and is the major influence on Mark as he writes his gospel. Church history records that Peter was martyred around AD 67 during the days of Nero. He was crucified upside down.

Broad observations

1. Discipleship is a process – It took time for Peter's faith to develop
2. Discipleship happens within the context of relationship – Jesus modeled what it looks like to walk in obedience to the Father.

3. Discipleship is a hands-on experience – Peter was more than an observer but participated in the ministry.
4. Discipleship will lead us to be like Christ – How do I know I am becoming a disciple?
5. Discipleship is designed to be passed on

*You have heard me teach things that have been confirmed by many reliable witnesses. Now teach these truths to other trustworthy people who will be able to pass them on to others. **2 Tim 2:2** (NLT)*

“Only a disciple can make a disciple.” -A. W. Tozer

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Broad observations

1. Discipleship is a _____.
2. Discipleship happens within the context of _____.
3. Discipleship is a _____ experience.
4. Discipleship will lead us to be _____.

5. Discipleship is designed to be _____.

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