

## ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL – Fall 2024 – FBC

### The Life of Peter

#### Lesson #2 – “Reducing the Options”

Sept 22/24

Texts: Luke 5:1-11, Matthew 14:22-32, 16:13-23, John 6:60-69.

*Last week we noted some specific details about Peter. The Gospels note that in Jesus’ first words to Simon He gives him the name Peter, meaning rock. We also noted that Peter was married, that he had a brother Andrew and that they were fishermen. James & John were their fishing partners. But Peter appears to have had a spiritual interest and soon he is having some significant experiences with Jesus. Today we want to note the direction this takes.*

1. In evangelical church circles it is quite common to say that a person, in regard to spiritual matters “became a Christian.” But of course there are many other expressions used to describe this change. What are some of the different phrases, images or expressions that are used to describe this step? What do we then say about all the experiences of God or Jesus that came before or after that event?

Play utube video of Ry Cooder: “Straight Street” - (lyrics below)

2. Initially Peter was simply asked to “follow Jesus”. Today we want to look at 4 significant stories of Jesus and Peter. Are they part of a journey? A process? Or ?? Do you think at some point “becomes a Christian”? or is that not a term you would use? Let’s look once more at the Luke 5:1-11 passage. What are the key words that Jesus speaks to Peter? and what are the words Peter uses in response to what happens?

3 Now READ Matthew 14:22-32 and note what this passage says and particularly note what Peter says and does.

4. Similarly, READ Matthew 16:13-20. Note the options as to who Jesus is thought to be and Peter’s statement. What do you make of Jesus’ response to Peter? What affect might this have on Peter? Then READ Matthew 16:21-23. Again note the words of Jesus and Peter – what reaction do you think Peter had?

5. Now READ John 6:60-69 and particularly focus on the last paragraph and think about what might be going on in Peter’s mind and heart. Think about all the experiences that Peter has had so far and discuss what might really be “behind” these words of Peter. What has he come to at this point in his “faith journey”?

NEXT WEEK: “After the Mountain Top Experience”

## Peter and Jesus – A Spiritual Journey?

Words/Command	Initial Response	Further Response
<p><b>Luke 5:1-11</b>                      “Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch.”</p>	<p>“Master, we have worked all nightlong but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets”</p>	<p>“Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man”</p>
<p><b>Matthew 14:22-32</b>                      “Come”</p>	<p>“Lord if it is you, command me to come to you on the water. Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water and came towards Jesus.”</p>	<p>“When he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened and beginning to sink, he cried out, ‘Lord save me!’”                      [Jesus: “You of little faith, why did you doubt?”]</p>
<p><b>Matthew 16: 13-20 (A)</b>                      “Who do you say that I am?”</p>	<p>“Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.”</p>	<p>“You are the Messiah, the son of the living God.”</p>
<p><b>Matthew 16: 21-23 (B)</b>                      “...must go Jerusalem and suffer many things... and be killed and on the third day be raised to life.”</p>	<p>“Never Lord, this must never happen to you!”</p>	<p>[Jesus: “Get behind me satan? You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men.”]   <b>Peter’s response??</b></p>
<p><b>John 6:60-69</b>                      “...many of His disciples turned back and no longer went about with him..”                      “Do you also wish to go away?”</p>		<p>“Lord to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and know that you are the Hold One of God.”</p>

## **“Living on Straight Street” by Ry Cooder**

Well I used to live on Broadway, right next to the liar's house  
My number was self-righteousness and a very little guide of mouth

[Chorus]

So I moved, I moved and I'm living on Straight Street now  
I moved, I had to move, I'm living on Straight Street now

[Verse 2]

Before I moved over, let me tell you how it was with me  
Old Satan had me bound in chains and I had no liberty  
One day my heart got troubled all about my dwelling place  
I heard the Lord when He spoke to me, and he told me to leave that place

[Chorus]

So I moved, I moved and I'm living on Straight Street now  
Yes I moved, I move, well I'm living on Straight Street now

[Bridge]

Since I moved, I'm really living, I've got peace within  
I thank the Lord for everything, so glad I found new friends

[Chorus]

So I moved, I moved and I'm living on Straight Street now  
I moved, I had to move, and I'm living on Straight Street now

**Luke 5:1-11** Once while Jesus was standing beside the lake of Gennesaret, and the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, he saw two boats there at the shore of the lake; the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little way from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, **'Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch.'** Simon answered, **'Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets.'** When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets were beginning to break. So they signalled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both boats, so that they began to sink. But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, **'Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!'** For he and all who were with him were amazed at the catch of fish that they had taken; and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. Then Jesus said to Simon, 'Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people.' When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him.

**Matthew 14:22-32** Immediately he made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. And early in the morning he came walking towards them on the lake. But when the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified, saying, 'It is a ghost!' And they cried out in fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, 'Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.'

Peter answered him, **'Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.'** He said, **'Come.'** So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came towards Jesus. But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, 'Lord, save me!' Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, 'You of little faith, why did you doubt?' When they got into the boat, the wind ceased.

### **Matthew 16:13-20**

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, 'Who do people say that the Son of Man is?' And they said, 'Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the **prophets.**' **He said to them, 'But who do you say that I am?'** **Simon Peter answered, 'You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.'** **And Jesus answered him,**

**'Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah!** For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.' Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah. <sup>21</sup>From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life. <sup>22</sup>Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. **"Never, Lord!"** he said. **"This shall never happen to you!"** <sup>23</sup>Jesus turned and said to Peter, **"Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men."**

**John 6:60-69** When many of his disciples heard it, they said, 'This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?' But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, 'Does this offend you? Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. But among you there are some who do not believe.' For Jesus knew from the first who were the ones that did not believe, and who was the one that would betray him. And he said, 'For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father.'

Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. So Jesus asked the twelve, **'Do you also wish to go away?'** Simon Peter answered him, **'Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.'**