

08-07-2022, COTR Texarkana

Title: Mentor Me, Peter

Purpose: Provoke people to follow the example of Peter and say yes to God to find eternal significance and reward.

Truth for Today: Saying yes to God has eternal significance and great reward.

Text: Jonah 1:1-3, Acts 2:37-41

Topic: Mentor, Peter, Significance, Reward

Series Title: Series Mentor Me

Series Purpose: Provoke people to learn and apply life lessons, good and bad, from Biblical characters.

## Mentor Me, Peter

### I. Introduction

A. Pic Mia cake (Longer introduction)

B. [Jonah 1:1–3 (NLT) The Lord gave this message to Jonah...2 “Get up and go to the ...city of Nineveh. Announce my judgment against it because I have seen how wicked its people are.” 3 **But Jonah got up and went in the opposite direction to get away from the Lord.**] God said go and Jonah said no! Later, God disciplined him, and he finally said yes. The main point is Jonah said no to God and almost missed the opportunity to be part of 120k people turning to God.

1. The Bible teaches when we say yes to God and do what He asks, He'll reward us in this life and in heaven. Imagine how people will feel when they stand before Jesus when He rewards His loyal followers: (1) Ananias will be glad because he said yes when the Lord asked him to pray for Paul the persecutor to be healed and baptized. (2) The Macedonian Christians will be glad because, were poor but they gave money to help the Christian Jews buy food in a famine. (3) Mary the mother of Jesus will be glad she said yes.
2. Jonah said no but the ones who said yes will be rewarded for all eternity.
3. Review series, Mentor Me. We've been learning how the choices people in the Bible made affected them. Today Peter will mentor us and show us our 'Truth for Today': Saying yes to God has eternal significance and great reward.

C. Title: Mentor Me, Peter

II. Peter had the privilege of being God's voice at Pentecost because he had a habit of saying yes to God. (Start backwards)

A. Context Pic Pentecost, [Acts 2:14-41 (ESV) But **Peter**...addressed them: “Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem...give ear to my words...37 (NLT) **Peter’s words** pierced their hearts, and they said...“Brothers, what should we do?” 38 **Peter replied**, “Each of you must repent of your sins and turn to God, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins...41 Those who believed what **Peter said** were baptized and added to the church that day—about 3,000 in all.]

1. Can you imagine of being God’s spokesman on the day of Pentecost when the church was born. 2.4 billion Christians alive today share this common heritage, 3,000 people get saved on the day the Holy Spirit was poured out and Peter was the man Jesus chose. // Become mister Biden’s spiritual adviser and he do it.
2. Why was Peter, an uneducated fisherman, chosen to be the voice of Pentecost? The answer is simple; he had a habit of saying yes to God. Because he said yes, his life will have eternal significance and great reward. It’s the same for us when we say yes to what the Bible teaches and, yes to the HS. (Mentor us Peter, 4 yes/1 no)

### III. Peter said yes and Jesus changed the priorities of his life

A. [Mt. 4:18–20 (NLT)...Jesus was walking along...the Sea of Galilee, he saw...**Peter**, and Andrew, throwing a net into the water, for they fished for a living. 19 Jesus called out to them, “**Come, follow me, and I will show you how to fish for people!**” 20 **And they left their nets at once and followed him.**] He said yes and the priorities of his life changed.

B. Pers. testimony: Getting out of Navy/ what to do with my life/ team. I planned to go to college and play football, farm with dad, and have a church on side. Moffet Field football/ Gray Navy bus. Saying yes to God had become the most important thing in my life. Mine wasn’t a choice between good and bad; it was between better and best. [Matthew 13:44–45 (NCV)...the **kingdom of heaven** is like a man looking for fine pearls. 46 **When he found a very valuable pearl, he went and sold everything he had and bought it.**]

C. Saying yes to Jesus happens in the small things of life, too. Missionary from Haiti, HS says help. Walk-Ons, \$75 vs. Joe’s XL pizza \$30. After lunch you missed the Boudin balls but you’re glad you said yes and invested in something with eternal value. Saying yes to Jesus changes our priorities. When we say yes, we position ourselves for eternal significance and great reward.

#### IV. Peter said yes and the impossible became possible

A. Matthew 17:24–27 (NLT)...the collectors of the Temple tax came to Peter and asked him, “Doesn’t your teacher pay the Temple tax?” 25 “Yes, he does,” Peter replied...26...Jesus said...27 However...go down to the lake and throw in a line. Open the mouth of the first fish you catch, and you will find a large silver coin. Take it and pay the tax for both of us.”]

1. Who likes to fish? Picture fish Who has ever caught a fish with money in its’ mouth? It doesn’t happen. It’s impossible unless Jesus gets involved.
2. Saying yes to Jesus opened the door for a divine intervention from God. Peter did what no one else has ever done because he said yes. Saying yes to God makes the impossible possible.
3. I had a big decision to make 4 years ago. Testimony Gander move Covid. The HS spoke and I and the church family said yes. Look what God did!!! the same can happen to you when you are boxed in and have no way out.

#### V. Peter said yes and Jesus turned his failure into success.

A. [Lk 5:1–11 (NLT)... Jesus was preaching on the shore of the Sea of Galilee, great crowds pressed in on him to listen ...3 Stepping into one of the boats, Jesus asked **Simon (Peter)**...to push it out into the water. So he sat in the boat and taught the crowds from there. 4 When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, “Now **go out where it is deeper, and let down your nets to catch some fish.**” 5 “Master,” Simon replied, “we worked hard all last night and didn’t catch a thing. **But if you say so, I’ll let the nets down again.**” 6 And this time their nets were so full of fish...7...both **boats were filled with fish** and on the verge of sinking.]

B. Peter fished all night and caught nothing; nets were hidden in dark. Peter said yes and Jesus helped him do what he couldn’t do on his own. His failure became a success when he did what Jesus said. Sometimes we do our best and fail. We need a turnaround but don’t know what to do. // small business battling inflation, little work.

#### VI. Peter said no but Jesus forgave him and gave him another chance.

A. Context before Jesus’ arrest. [Luke 22:33–62 (NLT) Peter said, “Lord, I am ready...to die with you.” 34 But Jesus said, “Peter... Before the rooster crows tomorrow morning, **you will deny three times that you even know me.**”... 56 A servant girl noticed him in the firelight...she said, “This man was one of Jesus’ followers!” 57 But Peter denied it. “**Woman,**”...“**I don’t**

**even know him!”**...61... the Lord’s words flashed through Peter’s mind: “Before the rooster crows...you will deny three times that you even know me.” 62 And Peter left the courtyard, weeping bitterly.] Imagine how he felt.

- B. When the pressure was on Peter said no but Jesus didn’t throw him away. After the resurrection he called for him by name. He forgave him, restored him, and gave him another chance on the Day of Pentecost. None of us are perfect. All of us have failed. We all have said no like Peter and Jonah, but Jesus is willing to give us another chance. He is a God of mercy, forgiveness, and restoration.
- C. When God forgives the devil tries to beat us up with shame and condemnation and feelings of being a failure. Don’t let him make you quit. Get back in the race.

VII. Peter said yes and Jesus promised to reward him and everyone else who says yes to God’s Word and the Holy Spirit.

A. [Luke 18:18–30 (NLT)...a religious leader asked Jesus...what should I do to inherit eternal life?”...20...you know the commandments...21 The man replied, “I’ve obeyed all these commandments since I was young.” 22...Jesus...said, “There is still one thing you haven’t done. Sell all your possessions and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.” 23 But when the man heard this he became very sad, for he was very rich.]

1. He said no. He chose temporary possessions over an eternal life.

B. Vs. 28 (ESV) **Peter** began to say to him, “See, **we have left everything and followed you.**” 29 Jesus said...there is **no one** who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or lands, for my sake and for the gospel, 30 who will not **receive a hundredfold now in this time**, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with **persecutions**, and in the age to come **eternal life**.

1. Paraphrase: Peter said, ‘Jesus the religious, rich guy said no, and I and other believers said yes, now what’s in it for us?’ Jesus said if anyone says yes to the Word of God and Spirit of God, he’ll have some bumps in life, but I’ll make it worth it. I’ll bless him in this life and reward him with eternal life.

VIII. Conclusion

A. Summary/ Prayer: Peter said yes and (1) Jesus changed the priorities of his life, (2) Jesus made the impossible possible, (3) Jesus turned his failure into

success. (4) Peter said no but Jesus forgave him and gave him another chance. (5) Jesus promised to reward Peter and everyone else who says yes to God's Word and the Holy Spirit.

IX. Response

A. Souls

X. Bibliography/ Resources: Logos Bible Software and Library, Platinum Edition, was used to prepare this message.