

I. Intro

A. Text: **Mk. 3:14-18**

¹³ And He went up on the mountain and called to Him those He Himself wanted. And they came to Him. ¹⁴ Then He appointed twelve, that they might be with Him and that He might send them out to preach, ¹⁵ and to have power to heal sicknesses and to cast out demons: ¹⁶ Simon, to whom He gave the name Peter; ¹⁷ James the son of Zebedee and John the brother of James, to whom He gave the name Boanerges, that is, "Sons of Thunder"; ¹⁸ Andrew, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James the son of Alphaeus, Thaddaeus, Simon the Cananite; ¹⁹ and Judas Iscariot, who also betrayed Him. And they went into a house. (Mk. 3:14-18)

B. Series Recap/ Overview (**Extra-Ordinary**)

1. Jesus
 - a. The paradox that perplexes the planet, the universe.
 - b. He's completely God, but completely man at the same time.
 - c. Son of God and Son of Man.
 - d. Ordinary in so many ways, but extra special out in every way imaginable.
2. Jesus' Disciples (The Apostles)
 - a. When we think of the apostles, most people see them exclusively through the light of stained glass windows, larger than life paintings, etc.
 - b. We see them as saints and otherworldly conquerors who set the world on fire... and I believe that is accurate.
 - c. What we don't realize is that, God sees us in the same way: Saints, Not of this world, released to set the world on fire!
 - i. They were no different than any of us.

II. Peter

A. Beginnings/ Background

1. 4 Complete Listings of the Twelve Apostles (**Matt. 10:2-4, Mk. 3:16-19, Lk. 6:13-16, Acts 1:13**)

² Now the names of the twelve apostles are these: first, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother; ³ Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James the son of Alphaeus, and Lebbaeus, whose surname was Thaddaeus; ⁴ Simon the Cananite, and Judas Iscariot, who also betrayed Him. (Matt. 10:2-4)

2. **Peter was an Ordinary Guy:**
 - a. But almost always named first.
 - b. Was not the first disciple to follow Jesus.
 - i. He got introduced to Jesus by His brother who encountered Jesus first.
3. **Peter was from an Ordinary Town:** Originally from Bethsaida in Galilee, but moved up to Capernaum.
4. **Ordinary Home Life:** Married (wife's name never mentioned).
 - i. Healed Simon's wife's mother (**Mk. 1:29-31**)
5. **Ordinary Occupation:** Fisherman by trade (**Matt. 4:18-20**)
6. **Ordinary name:** ("Peter"), with extra-ordinary significance.
 - a. Peter was NOT His gov't name. Simon was his official name (Hear)
 - i. Very common name in the nation of Israel.
 - ii. At least 7 other Simons mentioned in the gospels
 - iii. Simon Peter, Simon the Zealot, Simon the brother of Jesus (**Matt. 13:55**), Simon the father of Judas Iscariot (**Jn. 6:71**), Simon the leper (**Matt. 26:6**),

Simon the Pharisee (**Lk. 7:36**), Simon the Cyrene (**Matt. 27:32**)

iv. Simon Bar-Jonah = Simon the Son of Jonah

7. **Ordinary Name With An Extra-Ordinary Twist:** Jesus was not content with Simon's ordinary name, so he gave him a nickname.

¹⁶ *Simon, to whom He gave the name Peter;* ¹⁷ *James the son of Zebedee and John the brother of James, to whom* (**Mk. 3:16-17**)

- a. Probably gave Simon a nickname because his original name didn't properly describe where Peter was headed.
- b. I suggest that Jesus called Simon "Rock" because it was a prophetic word that described (not his present condition, but) his future character.
- c. At the time, Simon was far from a rock of stability and strength.
- d. Peter was always the first to open his mouth (usually to put his own foot in it)
- e. He was rough around the edges. The first one to do or say something brash and stupid.
 - i. Eager, aggressive, bold, outspoken and foolish
 - ii. Certainly not as stable as a rock.
- f. But when Jesus peered into the heart of Simon, He saw something that other people didn't see.
 - i. Jesus called out the best in Peter.

8. **Jesus Used Both Ordinary and Extra-Ordinary Words:** to shape and mold Peter into the leader that he'd one day become.

- a. Jesus saw the potential in Simon.
 - i. He called out the best in Simon.
 - ii. But Jesus didn't ignore the ugly in him.

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- b. Jesus used exhortation mixed with a cycle rebukes and restoration to mold Peter into the leader that He envisioned.
 - c. Although Jesus nicknamed our guy “Peter”, He reserved the right to call him by his old name (Simon) when he acted like his past.
 - i. When you notice Jesus calling Peter by his old name in the gospels, it was usually because he was acting like his old self.
 - ii. “Simon” was a rebuke.
 - iii. “Peter” was an exhortation.

B. Mixed in with his Ordinary flaws, Peter flashed some great Potential.

- 1. The Lone Water Walker: We remember Peter because he was the one who doubted Jesus out on the water and almost drowned because of it.

...And when Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water to go to Jesus. ³⁰ But when he saw that the wind was boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink he cried out, saying, “Lord, save me!” ³¹ And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him, and said to him, “O you of little faith, why did you doubt?” (Matt. 14:29-31)

- a. We tend to forget that while everyone else was debating about whether or not this figure walking on the water was a ghost, Peter was the only one with the faith to get out of the boat.
- 2. The Lone Pursuer: On the night that Jesus was crucified we remember that Peter denied the fact that he even knew Jesus.

⁶⁹ Now Peter sat outside in the courtyard. And a servant girl came to him, saying, “You also were with Jesus of Galilee.” ⁷⁰ But he denied it before them all, saying, “I do not know what you are saying.” (Matt. 26:69-70)

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- a. We tend to forget that all the other disciples had Jesus' back, but way far back. But Peter was the only one with the courage to follow to see about Jesus close enough to be pointed out.

3. The Lone Defender: We remember that it was Peter earlier that night who acted impulsively and foolishly.

¹⁰ Then Simon Peter, having a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's servant, and cut off his right ear. The servant's name was Malchus. (Jn. 18:10)

- a. Peter tried to lift Malchus' head off his shoulders!
- b. Jesus' response to this act in **Matt. 26:52**, gives us the basis for the still famous slogan: *"Those who live by the sword will die by the sword"*.
- c. We focus on the foolishness of the act.
 - i. He wasn't trained in the military, but he was a soldier for sure. A rider, who stood even when it made no sense.
 - ii. Roman cohorts often contained 600 hundred soldiers, so when they went to arrest Jesus the numbers were not in the disciples' favor (hundreds against 12).
 - iii. Peter, with his wild, untrained aim decided that he was going to take out his little sword and get whoever he could.
 - iv. Cut off Malchus' ear and it could have sparked a riot (hundreds vs. 12). Jesus fixed it, because that's what he did when his leaders messed up.
- d. We focus on the rebuke, it's still a popular slogan some thousands of years later.
 - i. But what we sometimes fail to acknowledge is that Peter is the only disciple who busted a grape that night Jesus was arrested.
- e. From that incident, you and I see a fool.

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- i. But Jesus saw a fearless leader who would one day stand in the face of threats of death and preach 3,000 souls into the Kingdom.

- 4. The Lone Proclaimer: One day Jesus gave the disciples the pop quiz of all pop quizzes:
 - a. Produced Peter's ultimate highlight!

¹³ When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, "Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?" ¹⁴ So they said, "Some say John the Baptist, some 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 answered and said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." ¹⁷ Jesus answered and said to 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 also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. ¹⁹ And 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." (Matt. 16:13-19)

- 5. Everyone wanted to recite other people's answers.
- 6. As they stumbled at the question, looking for the way to sound right ... Loud-mouth Peter, blurted out the answer (again).
 - a. "You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God."
 - b. Flesh and blood didn't give you that.
 - c. We're finally getting somewhere with you Peter.
- 7. You're not Simon. I declare prophetically that thou art Peter and upon this rock I will build my church. And the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

*This was the highlight of Peter's career as a disciple with Jesus.

C. Peter's Ultimate Highlight Was Sweet... Bitter

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1. Before Peter could rest on this decisive victory, Jesus began reminding the team that He'd soon be crucified and murdered. (**Matt. 16:21**)

*²¹ From that time Jesus began to show to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day. (**Matt. 16:21**)*

- a. Peter was the only disciple bold enough to try to rebuke Jesus (**Matt. 16:22; John 13:28**)

*²² Then Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, "Far be it from You, Lord; this shall not happen to You!" (**Matt. 16:22**)*

- b. And in response, Peter was the only disciple that Jesus ever called the Devil. (**Matt. 16:23**)

*²³ But He turned and said to Peter, "Get behind Me, Satan! You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men." (**Matt. 16:23**)*

D. Peter's Absolute Low-Light Was Bitter... Sweet

*³¹ And the Lord said, "Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat. ³² But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren." ³³ But he said to Him, "Lord, I am ready to go with You, both to prison and to death." ³⁴ Then He said, "I tell you, Peter, the rooster shall not crow this day before you will deny three times that you know Me." (**Lk. 22:31-34**)*

1. Simon. Simon. Satan asked for you. His desire is to toss you in the air like a farmer tosses up wheat into the wind.
2. The very thing that should have taken Peter out, Jesus used to refine Peter. This fall was used to get the Simon out of Peter.
 - a. Farmers tossed wheat into the air so that all the chaffe (junk) would blow away in the wind.

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- i. Only thing that was left fell straight to the ground (the useful, edible wheat).
 - 3. When you get tossed this time, what will be left is all that is needed.
 - a. All Jesus needs is our ordinary, and he meets us at the point of our weakness and does the impossible.

III. Jesus Is Seeking To Restore

- A. After being warned, Peter denied that he ever knew Jesus.
 - 1. He was so discouraged that he went back to fishing.
 - i. Back to the old life.
 - ii. Back to the old habits.
 - 2. Even in discouragement, Peter was a bonafide leader.

¹ After these things Jesus showed Himself again to the disciples at the Sea of Tiberias, and in this way He showed Himself: ² Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of His disciples were together. ³ Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We are going with you also." They went out and immediately got into the boat, and that night they caught nothing. (Jn. 21:1-3)

- a. Where Peter went, others tended to follow.

- B. Jesus decided to pay a special visit, to remind Peter that He was not through with him yet. Peter might have given up for a moment, but Jesus would never give up on him.

⁴ But when the morning had now come, Jesus stood on the shore; yet the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. ⁵ Then Jesus said to them, "Children, have you any food?" They answered Him, "No." ⁶ And He said to them, "Cast the net on the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they cast, and now they were not able to draw it in because of the multitude of fish. ⁷ Therefore that disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" Now when Simon Peter heard that it was the

Lord, he put on his outer garment (for he had removed it), and plunged into the sea. ⁸ But the other disciples came in the little boat (for they were not far from land, but about two hundred cubits), dragging the net with fish. ⁹ Then, as soon as they had come to land, they saw a fire of coals there, and fish laid on it, and bread. ¹⁰ Jesus said to them, “Bring some of the fish which you have just caught.”

1. Like always, Peter was the first to jump out of the boat and encounter Jesus (**Jn. 21:7b-8**)
2. Jesus took Peter to the side and asked him plainly, “Do you love me”?
 - a. Jesus asked about an extra-ordinary love that Peter didn’t quite possess.
 - i. Peter responded back with a weak, ordinary love.
 - ii. That’s all he had to give.
 - b. After a back and forth that highlighted the difference between the explosive love of Christ and the weak love of man, Jesus simply blessed Peter with extraordinary love, extraordinary power and tasked him with leading the rest of the twelve.

C. What was Jesus saying?

1. Jesus was promising to meet Peter’s weaknesses and turn them into unmistakable strengths.
 - a. The next thing we knew, ordinary Peter became the leader of 12 ordinary followers of Jesus that became 120.
 - b. That became 3,000+ in one day (Pentecost).
 - c. That became ½ Million within the next 65 years
 - d. That became 2.2 billion today
2. Only Jesus can take weak, fragile, ordinary love and do the impossible with it.

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- a. He meets our weak followers, weak vessels and he meets us with the power that hurled the galaxies across the cosmos.
 - b. The ordinary of our imperfections is assaulted supremacy of his powerful grace and the result is absolutely extra-ordinary.