

# Encounters With Jesus: Simon Peter

April 18, 2021

**Scriptures:** Matthew 14:24-33; John 21:1-19

**Bottom Line:** Failure is a part of growing as a disciple of Jesus, and He is patient

The Bible holds Peter up as *the* example of a disciple of Jesus. When we look at his encounters with Jesus, we're looking at what it means to be a disciple, and how Jesus relates to His followers.

## **Peter (Barely) Walks on Water - Matthew 14:24-33**

- Being a disciple means imitating everything your master does. Peter walks on water because Jesus walks on water
- At some point, if we're going to follow Jesus, we need to move beyond believing in Jesus and start imitating Him: going where He goes, doing what He does.
- Peter starts to sink because of doubt and fear. If we are going to imitate Jesus, we need to believe that He will make us capable of being like Him.

## **Peter Gets a Fresh Start (And a Balanced Breakfast) - John 21:1-19**

- Jesus recreates the moment that He and Peter first met (see Luke 5:1-11). He takes Peter back to the beginning and gives Peter 3 opportunities to declare his love for Peter: one for each earlier denial. Jesus
- The way of Jesus doesn't come naturally to us, we make mistakes, and we fail to imitate Jesus. But this is part of the growing process.
- When we fall, Jesus gently picks us up, washes away our failure, and invites us to follow Him again.

# LISTENING

Have someone in your group share a time where they encountered Jesus.:

- Set the scene! What was going on in your life at the time?
- How did you meet God? Was it through a person? Scripture?
- What was the message or feeling? What did it mean to you at that time?  
Has the meaning changed over time?

Take some time to see if anyone encountered Jesus through the story. Did He use this story to teach or encourage someone? Convict someone?

# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Review Sunday's message. What stood out to you? What challenged you?  
Are there any lingering questions?
2. How is Jesus calling you to imitate Him at this point in your journey?
3. How has fear held you back from being a disciple of Jesus?
4. What failures in your past have proven to be growing experiences in your walk with Jesus?