

MENTOR 2: PETER

THE LESSON: JOHN 21

When we first meet this saint, he's an ordinary fisherman named Simon. Then one day Jesus called him, and Simon followed. His life would never be the same. Simon was there listening to Jesus preach, watching him heal the sick, raise the dead, and miraculously feed massive crowds with one child's lunch. When Jesus asked his disciples who they believed him to be, it was Simon who answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God". Jesus commended him for this insight, and gave him a new name, saying, "You are Peter (which means "rock"), and on this rock I will build my Church".

But Simon Peter was also a man who got things wrong. When he saw Jesus walking on the water, he wanted to walk to him, but then became frightened, took his eyes off Jesus, and sank (Jesus rescued him). He was one of three disciples who slept instead of watching while Jesus prayed in Gethsemane. At Jesus' arrest, Peter resorted to violence, slicing off a man's ear (which Jesus then healed). And after that, while Jesus was being tried and condemned, Peter denied ever having known him. In fact, he denied him three times, something Jesus had foretold would happen.

But the story didn't end there because Jesus didn't stay dead. And Jesus didn't allow Peter's betrayal to be the end either. Instead he opened the door for Peter to be restored – a passage we're going to look at more closely in today's lesson.

Tradition says that Peter was martyred by crucifixion, but that he asked to be crucified upside-down, because he did not feel worthy to be killed in the same way as Jesus. Peter never forgot that he was a sinner in need of grace – as we all are. But he was also a man of great faith who loved Jesus, and that inspired him to keep following and serving Christ humbly to the very end.

AT-HOME CHALLENGE

Each morning and evening, follow the rule of prayer that you created for yourself.

(If you didn't make one, try saying the morning and evening prayers from the "Forms of Prayer to be used in Families," which begins on page 728 of the BCP. If you don't have a copy, you can look it up here: <http://prayerbook.ca/resources/bcponline/family-prayer>.)

Spend some time considering the example of Peter. Ask God to help you to see your identity and purpose through his eyes. Close with this prayer adapted from 1 Corinthians 4:16, 18: **"Lord, help me not to lose heart. And though my outer self may be wasting away, let my inner self be renewed day by day. Help me to focus not upon the things that are seen and transient, but upon the things that are unseen and eternal."**

- AND/OR -

Take some time to pray through this prayer, pausing to reflect after each phrase.

Father of mercies, who to thine Apostle Saint Peter didst reveal in three-fold vision thy boundless compassion: Forgive, we pray thee, our unbelief, and so enlarge our hearts and enkindle our zeal, that we may fervently desire the salvation of all men, and with more ready diligence labour in the extension of thy kingdom; for his sake, who gave himself for the life of the world, thy Son our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

(PRAYER FROM THE "PRAYERS AT MIDDAY", BCP PAGE 17)

MENTOR 2: PETER

JOHN 21: THE RESTORATION OF "THE ROCK" (X3)

¹After this Jesus revealed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias, and he revealed himself in this way. ²Simon Peter, Thomas (called the Twin), Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples were together. ³Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We will go with you." They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

⁴Just as day was breaking, Jesus stood on the shore; yet the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. ⁵Jesus said to them, "Children, do you have any fish?" They answered him, "No." ⁶He said to them, "Cast the net on the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in, because of the quantity of fish. ⁷That disciple whom Jesus loved therefore said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his outer garment, for he was stripped for work, and threw himself into the sea. ⁸The other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, but about a hundred yards off.

⁹When they got out on land, they saw a charcoal fire in place, with fish laid out on it, and bread. ¹⁰Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish that you have just caught." ¹¹So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, 153 of them. And although there were so many, the net was not torn. ¹²Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." Now none of the disciples dared ask him, "Who are you?" They knew it was the Lord. ¹³Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and so with the fish. ¹⁴This was now the third time that Jesus was revealed to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

¹⁵When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." He said to him, "Feed my lambs." ¹⁶He said to him a second time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." He said to him, "Tend my sheep." ¹⁷He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" Peter was grieved because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" and he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep. ¹⁸Truly, truly, I say to you, when you were young, you used to dress yourself and walk wherever you wanted, but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will dress you and carry you where you do not want to go." ¹⁹(This he said to show by what kind of death he was to glorify God.) And after saying this he said to him, "Follow me."