

A BRIEF BIOGRAPHY OF SIMON PETER AS SEEN THROUGH THE
EYES OF JESUS Text: John 21:18

I. WHEN YOU WERE YOUNGER...

A. Jesus had first met Simon's brother Andrew. It was Andrew who introduced Simon to Jesus, JOHN 1:40-41.

B. Simon and Andrew were Galilean fishermen in partnership with Zebedee and his sons, LUKE 5:10.

C. Simon and Andrew were sons of a man named Jonah (called John in a few manuscripts), JOHN 1:42. They probably grew up in Bethsaida, JOHN 1:44.

D. The name Simon was the Greek equivalent of the Hebrew name, Simeon. Simon is referred to by that Hebrew name in ACTS 15:14. Directly, or indirectly, Simon was named after Simeon, the son of Jacob.

E. Though he was unschooled and untrained so far as formal education was concerned, he could speak two languages--Aramaic, and Greek.
JOHN 1:42; MT 16:18; 26:73.

F. When they met for the first time, Jesus saw what Simon was--and what he would become, JOHN 1:42.

G. Some days or weeks later, when Jesus called Simon away from his boats and his nets and his fish, to become a fisher of men, Simon was not at all sure of his own potential. READ LUKE 5:4-11.

II. IN MATTHEW 16, WE VIEW ANOTHER CHAPTER IN THE
LIFE & DEVELOPMENT OF SIMON, THE SON OF
JONAH

A. Some three years had passed since Jesus had met Simon and indicated that he would someday be a solid, trustworthy disciple. During those three years, Simon had eaten with Jesus, lodged with Jesus, traveled with Jesus--observed Jesus, learned from Jesus, and

conversed with Jesus.

B. The conversation of MT 16:13-19. You *ARE* Peter. Three years before He had said, you *will be*.

C. Peter would continue to make mistakes, but he had acquired the faith, the convictions, that would enable him to be a rock of stability in his service to God.

1. When he was younger, he went where he wanted to go and did what he wanted to do. As he grew and matured in his relationship with Jesus, he went where Jesus told him to go and did what Jesus asked him to do.

2. He began to do this from the time Jesus first called him from his nets and boats and fish. "At Your word I will." LUKE 5:5.

3. Just before Jesus ascended to heaven, he gave Peter and the other apostles the great commission. Go into all the world... "At Your word I will."

Began in Jerusalem, ACTS 2-7
Samaria, ACTS 8
Lydda, Sharon, Joppa, ACTS 9
Caeserea, ACTS 10
Corinth, 1 COR 1:12; 9:5-6
Antioch, Syria, GAL 1:11
Babylon, 1 PET 5:13
Rome (?)

III. THE FINAL CHAPTER--"WHEN YOU ARE OLD..."

A. Jesus indicated that Peter would die violently--a martyr's death.

B. Probably, like each of us, he would have preferred to just close his eyes one night and open them in Abraham's Bosom--but we don't get to make that choice.

HEB 9:27.

C. As he faced the prospect of a painful death at the hands of

the enemies of the gospel, Peter braced himself to be faithful to the end. READ 2 PETER 1:13-15.

D. He could face persecution and death calmly because he had made the decision a long time before when he said to Jesus, "At Your word I will." LUKE 5:5.

Shiloh, Mexia, Texas, June 12, 1994

Susquehanna, Marietta, PA, October 26, 1997

Susquehanna, Marietta, PA, March 4, 2001