

# *Simon Peter - Fisher of Men*

By Gloria L. Emmerich

## Principle Characters:

MALE:

Simon Peter  
James  
John  
Andrew  
Thomas

FEMALE:

Anna (Peter's wife)  
Jara (Peter's mother-in-law)  
Mary Magdalene

## Supporting Cast:

MALE:

Jesus  
Matthias  
Beggar  
Temple Priest  
Captain  
Simon the Tanner  
Servant  
Soldier One  
Soldier Two  
Guard  
Apollo

FEMALE:

Phoebe  
Martha  
Deborah  
Tabitha  
Leah  
Servant Girl One  
Servant Girl Two  
Townsppeople/Crowd  
Voice of God (offstage)

## List of Songs

1. You're One of Them!/I Don't Know This Man!.....Company
2. The Master Has Risen!.....Peter, James, Andrew, Thomas, and John
3. He Knows My Heart.....Peter
4. Fishers of Men.....Peter, James, Andrew, Thomas, and John
5. Bullheaded and Charming.....Anna
6. Sing to the Lord, O Give Thanks.....Company
7. Bullheaded and Charming (Reprise)..... Anna and Jara
8. I Belong by Your Side..... Anna and Peter
9. He Is in God's Will.....Jara, Mary, and Anna
10. Fishers of Men (Reprise)..... Peter, James, John, and Andrew
11. Out of the Darkness.....Company
12. Fowl Play (Food For Thought)...James, Peter, Andrew, John, Anna, Jara, and Mary
13. My Life.....James
14. You Are in Control.....John, Anna, Jara, Mary, Leah, (Chorus)
15. I Give You My Life.....Peter
16. I'm One of Them/The Master Has Risen - Finale.....Company

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# *Simon Peter - Fisher of Men*

**ACT ONE SC 1:** *SIMON PETER stands over a fire pit warming his hands, hoping to hear where they've taken JESUS. Others are gathered around. A maidservant eyes PETER suspiciously, and then approaches him.*

## **SONG # 1 – YOU'RE ONE OF THEM! Simon Peter & Company**

**SERVGIRL1:** You're one of them. You're one of his disciples.  
You were with Him, the Nazarene.  
Oh, yes, I'm sure, a follower of Jesus. I've seen your face. You're one of them!

**PETER:** What are you saying? I don't understand! I don't know this man!

**SERVGIRL2:** My brother said he saw you in the garden.  
He said you raised your sword and cut his ear.  
But Jesus said, "Don't lift a hand against him."  
His ear was healed but you had disappeared.

**PETER:** Why do you insist I know Him? It is a lie!  
I swear to you, I...never knew this man!

**MALESOLO:** I am quite sure I've seen you before, and you are a Galilean.

**CHORUS:** Jesus was also in Galilee. You are one of them!

**PETER:** NO! I never laid eyes on this man before! This is a lie!  
I tell you, I swear to you, I...don't know this man! *(All exit except PETER. Each call out a different line as they exit: "I've seen him before!"...That's got to be him!"... "Guards, Guards!"...etc.)*

*(A rooster crows twice. JESUS, about to be taken to the cross, enters and walks across the stage passing PETER. Their eyes meet and PETER quickly turns away. JESUS continues walking past PETER, never taking His eyes off of him, and then exits.)*

**PETER:** *(Falls to his knees DL. And weeps. While recorded dialogue between JESUS and PETER plays, dim red lights slowly come up revealing JESUS on the cross behind a scrim. Two women and JOHN kneel at the cross. PETER remains down left watching/listening in agony.)*

**JESUS:** Come, follow me, and I will make you fishers of men. Peter, who do you say that I am?

**PETER:** You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God.

**JESUS:** Blessed are you Simon Barjona. I say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church. I will give to you the keys to the kingdom of Heaven.

**PETER:** Lord, you shall never wash my feet.

**JESUS:** Then you will have no part with Me.

**PETER:** Then, wash all of me, Lord!

**JESUS:** What? Could you not watch with Me but one hour?

**PETER:** My Lord, I would lay down my life for your sake!

**JESUS:** Verily I say to you Peter, tonight before the cock crows twice you will deny Me three times. Oh, you of little faith... One of you will betray Me...One of you will betray Me..betray Me...betray Me...betray Me... *(Thunder/Lightning. JESUS drops his head and dies.*

**PETER:** Noooo! *(PETER breaks down again, weeping bitterly.)*

**(BLACKOUT)**

**ACT ONE SC 2:** *JAMES, JOHN, PETER and ANDREW at the Zebedee brothers' house. It's the third day since JESUS death/burial. PETER sits to the side moping, the others pace or stand. They're all upset, sad, confused; in shock over the loss of their Master.*

**JAMES:** What are we supposed to do now? We can't keep hiding like this!

**ANDREW:** They won't hunt for us forever, James. Eventually things will calm down and get back to normal.

**JAMES:** *(Angry.) Normal?! And what would "normal" be, Andrew?! Just go back to fishing as if we never met the Master?!*

**JOHN:** James, I don't think He meant for us to just...

**ANDREW:** *(Getting in JAMES' face.)* Do you have any better ideas?! All you've done is pace the floor, ranting and raving about every little thing any of us says! Either give us some ideas or *be quiet!!* We can't just keep ourselves shut up in here day after day!

**JAMES:** *(In ANDREW'S face as well.)* Well then, *WHAT?!* What *ARE* we to do?!

**JOHN:** James! Sit down! Andrew, I know we need to make plans. It's just that we're still all in shock over what's happened the last few days. Maybe if we all would just... *(There's a loud, frantic knock at the door. For the first time PETER reacts, jumping to his feet.)*

**JAMES:** *(Motions to them to be still.)* Shhhh! *(No one makes a move, they just stare at each other. Another knock, louder, then a voice is heard.)*

**MARY:** *(From offstage.)* John! Andrew! Open the door! It's me, Mary.

**JOHN:** *(Surprised, relieved.)* Mary Magdalene? Andrew, go open the door for her. *(ANDREW runs offstage to let MARY in. She enters first.)*

**MARY:** *(Enters breathless.)* He's gone! The tomb is empty! Just like He told us!

**JAMES:** What do you mean He's gone?!

**JOHN:** Who told you it was empty?

**MARY:** John, I was *there!* I saw the sepulcher. The stone's been rolled away and I went inside...Jesus isn't there! He told us this would happen, and none of us understood; we didn't believe Him!

**ANDREW:** Mary, calm down! Here... *(Helps her sit down.)* I think you're just overly tired, Mary. You're probably seeing things from lack of sleep. None of us have been able to sleep either.

**JAMES:** *(To JOHN.)* Either she's making this up or she's lost her mind!

**MARY:** I tell you, it's *true!* Joanna was there, and Jesus' own mother! They saw and heard everything too!

**JOHN:** *(Calmly.)* Heard what, Mary?

**ANDREW:** It was most likely a dream, Mary. Just something you *wish* was true.

**MARY:** *(Stands, defensive.)* No! John, please, you have to believe me. Why would I make this up?

**JAMES:** Surely you're not going to listen to her, John!

**ANDREW:** She's a woman, John. You know how they're prone to telling tales...

**MARY:** *(Puffs up, clenching her fists.)* You appear much smarter, Andrew...when you're *SILENT!!*

**JOHN:** That's enough!! All of you! *(Calms down.)* All right, Mary. Tell us what happened. *(MARY looks at the others dubiously, then at JOHN.)* Please, go on. *(Gives JAMES and ANDREW a stern look.)* We're *ALL* listening...

**MARY:** *(Starts slowly, calmly, then grows with excitement.)* I know you're all familiar with our customs for burying the dead. Well, Joanna, Jesus' mother, and I couldn't prepare Jesus' body for burial until after the Sabbath. This morning, after we'd gathered the spices and ointments, we went to the sepulcher where we saw them lay Jesus. We were almost there when Joanna asked how we were going to roll the stone away to get inside. None of us had even thought of that. Just then, we all looked up and saw the stone was rolled away! We all ran inside for fear His body had been stolen, and the tomb was empty! Only His grave clothes remained!

**JAMES:** They've stolen the body!

**ANDREW:** They have *NO* right!

**MARY:** No, no! I'm not finished yet!

**JOHN:** *(Now excited.)* Go on, Mary!

**MARY:** The three of us sat down and began weeping, when all of a sudden there was a bright light, brighter than the sun. We looked up and there, sitting right where Jesus' body should have been, were two angels!

**JAMES:** *(Incredulous.)* Angels?!

**ANDREW:** *(Shocked.)* What?!

**MARY:** *(Ignores them.)* One of them asked why we were weeping. I answered, "Because they've taken My Lord and I don't know where they've laid Him." He said, "Why do you seek the living among the dead? He's not here; He is risen. Remember how He spoke to you in Galilee saying the Son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified, and on the third day rise again?" I tell you John, *all* of you, it's just as He told us!

**JAMES:** *(Stunned, he drops onto a stool.)* This is preposterous!

**ANDREW:** *(Wanting badly to believe, but still doubtful.)* Mary, are you *sure* they were angels and not the gardeners? Maybe the sun was in your eyes...

**MARY:** *(Smiles, remembering.)* Yes, Andrew...the "son" *WAS* in my eyes: the Son of God! *(They all look at her, unconvinced.)* The women ran off to tell the others and I lingered, still weeping. I heard a voice and looked up, assuming it *was* the gardener. He asked me why I was crying. I begged Him to tell me where they had taken my Master, and He just smiled at me and called my name. It was Him! My Lord! My Master! John, *HE IS RISEN!!*

**JAMES:** Oh, come now, Mary! Why would Jesus show Himself to you first and not to His own disciples?! *WE* were His closest friends!

**MARY:** *(Angry, turning on JAMES.)* Really? *Were* you?! Who fled like cowards from the garden that night Judas brought the soldiers to arrest Him? Were you there when He died on the cross? Did you go to the tomb where they laid Him to rest? *(Anger rising.)* I never deserted Him! I was there with His mother at the foot of the cross when He breathed His last breath! I was there when they rolled the stone in front of the tomb! Where were *YOU*, James?! Andrew?! *(Turns to PETER who has said nothing.)* And *YOU*, PETER?!

**PETER:** *(Rising from his seat, he finally speaks for the first time.)* I'll believe it when I see for myself! *(He turns and runs offstage, with JOHN on his heels. ANDREW and JAMES sit again, still unsure.)*

**MARY:** *(Calling after them.)* You won't find Him! He's not there, I tell you! *(Turns back to JAMES and ANDREW.)* James, Andrew, listen to me! Since I first met the Master have I ever lied to you, to any of you?

**JAMES:** *(Now feeling sorry for her.)* Of course not, Mary. It's just a little bit hard to comprehend what you're saying. It would take a miracle to bring Jesus back from the dead!

**ANDREW:** *(Looking as if something's finally clicking in his mind.)* Yes...it would. And who better to receive a miracle than the Master of all miracles! *(Shakes JAMES shoulder.)* Think of it, James! How many miracles did Jesus perform that we saw with our own eyes? Why shouldn't *HE* receive one as well? That would be the *ultimate* miracle! The best one of *all!*

**JAMES:** *(Not quite as skeptical, he just stares at ANDREW.)* It's still so outrageous...

**MARY:** I know what I'm saying sounds absurd; but *I* was *in* the tomb, James! I touched the stone slab where His body should have been. I saw the angels. I heard the voice of my Lord and Master. He looked *right at me*, James! Don't you think after nearly three years of serving Him, I'd recognize His voice, His face, His smile, the color of His eyes?!

**PETER:** *(He and JOHN run in, both out of breath.)* It's true! Mary's right. The tomb is empty, Andrew! I...I ran the whole way there and didn't stop till I was standing inside the tomb...*(Stops to catch his breath and JOHN takes over.)*

**JOHN:** I got to the tomb first but couldn't bring myself to enter the sepulcher. Peter rushed past me and on through the cave opening, so I followed. You should have come, James! Jesus is *NOT there!*

**PETER:** I saw the linen clothes lying there, as if they'd just ...fallen off His body. And the linen piece that covered His head was off to one side, neatly folded...*(Looks up at them and stresses the word.)* ...*FOLDED!*

**JOHN:** He has risen! Just as He said!

**ANDREW:** *(Grinning from ear to ear.)* The ultimate miracle! *(Slaps JAMES on the back.)*

**JAMES:** *(Nearly falling off the bench from ANDREW'S slap.)* It's outrageous! *(Laughs loudly; giddy.)* This is unbelievable!

**MARY:** *(Smiles, hands on hips; waltzing up to JAMES.)* So, "Lost my mind," have I?

**JAMES:** *(Sheepishly.)* Forgive me, Mary; I was wrong. *(Louder till he's nearly shouting with joy and shaking MARY'S shoulders.)* And I've never been happier to be wrong in my whole life!! *(JOHN and ANDREW join in the laughter and excitement; overjoyed as reality sinks in.)*

**PETER:** *(Laughing too, he stops JAMES from shaking MARY to death.)* James, let her go! Mary's already had the demons cast out of her! *(Instantly everyone stops to see if sparks will fly; PETER acts quickly.)* Here, James; *(PETER takes JAMES hands and places them on his own shoulders.)* Shake me instead!! *(They all burst out laughing as JAMES briefly shakes PETER, then PETER turns to MARY.)* I'm so sorry, Mary; I've been such a fool.

**MARY:** *(Smiles.)* Never mind, Peter. It's all right...*everything's* all right, now! The Master has returned!

**PETER:** *(Deep in thought; almost to himself.)* And...we've got *LOTS* to do! *(To MARY.)* Mary, go tell the other disciples about Jesus and ask them to come here as quickly as possible. We must have a meeting! *(MARY nods and runs off.)*

## SONG # 2 - THE MASTER HAS RISEN!

Peter, Andrew, James, John & Thomas

**JAMES:** Mary was right! I'd have never believed,  
But an empty tomb tells me He's free.

**ANDREW:** It's the ultimate miracle He has achieved, the best one in all history!

**JOHN:** I saw with my own eyes and Peter saw too, the sepulcher stone rolled away.  
**PETER:** No body, no traces, it has to be true,  
**ALL FOUR:** That our crucified Lord rose today!  
The Master has risen just as He declared! Jesus has conquered the grave.  
He's told us to gather, it's time to prepare.  
He's come back to heal and to save!  
*(THOMAS enters—he's just heard the news.)*  
**THOMAS:** John, are you sure that He rose from the dead? It seems a bit doubtful to me.  
**JAMES:** Thomas, don't doubt, you were there when He said,  
"I'll come back again, wait and see!"  
**PETER:** It's clear to me now that for Satan to lose, God's Son had to be sacrificed.  
**ANDREW:** Now the devil's defeated. Let's spread the good news:  
**ALL FIVE:** The Victor is now Jesus Christ!  
The Master has risen just as He declared. Jesus has conquered the grave.  
He's told us to gather, it's time to prepare.  
He's come back to heal and to save!  
The Master has risen, it's just as He said. He marched into Hell and survived.  
Why look for the living among all the dead? The Lord Jesus Christ is alive!  
The Lord Jesus Christ is alive!\_\_\_\_\_

*(While music plays out, JESUS enters. As they see Him one by one they all back away, or fall into their chair, stunned: some in awe, some afraid.)*

**JESUS:** Peace be unto you, my brothers. Why are you afraid? Why do you doubt in your hearts? See the nail prints in my hands and feet? It is I, your Lord and Master. I'm not a spirit, but flesh and bones. This is what I tried to tell you when I was still with you; that all things concerning me must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses, in the prophets, and the Psalms. So it is written, and so it was necessary for Me to suffer and die, and rise again on the third day so that all may know and receive salvation from their sins. Now, I go before you to Galilee. Make haste to join Me, and I will meet with you there. *(He smiles, turns, and exits. Through the course of JESUS' speech, the disciples have slowly crept closer, relaxing, smiling, never taking their eyes off of Him for one second. When JESUS leaves they are motionless, still shocked, till JAMES breaks the silence.)*

**JAMES:** *(A huge smile on his face.)* This is UNBELIEVABLE!! *(The others stare at him.)*  
He's back!! *(Then they all join in the laughter, back slapping, etc.)*

**JOHN:** We're off to Galilee, brothers! *(Excited, noisy, they run off, leaving PETER alone. He stares at his palm, remembering JESUS' nail-scarred hand.)*

### **SONG # 3 - HE KNOWS MY HEART Peter**

**PETER:** When He appeared, I rejoiced in my soul.  
But, still deep inside me there's a nagging fear:  
Can my life again be whole?  
I was ashamed; how could I look in His eyes.  
The last time our eyes met, I denied Jesus name.  
How can He forgive my lies?  
If Jesus hears me, He knows my heart.  
I'm truly sorry. I need a brand new start;  
Lord, let it be! I want to be a part. You are all I need.  
There are no words that could say how I feel,  
When all that He sees in my eyes is real.  
Jesus knows me, He sees my true heart.  
I was wrong, now I need a new start.  
Lord, You know what's in my heart.

**JOHN:** *(From offstage.)* Peter! Let's go! *(PETER grabs his coat and exits.)*

**(BLACKOUT)**

**ACT ONE SC 3:** *In a boat on the Sea of Galilee. ANDREW, PETER, JAMES, JOHN, and THOMAS have been fishing all day and night with not a single fish caught. They contemplate giving up and heading to shore.*

**THOMAS:** *(Almost whining.)* Forget it! Let's go back to shore. This is useless! There are *NO* fish out here!

**ANDREW:** *(Irritated.)* Do you *always* have to be so *doubtful* about everything, Thomas? You were *just* as *eager* to go fishing last night as the *rest* of us.

**JOHN:** If we don't catch any fish, what do you propose that we eat? You *know* this lake...sometimes it takes a while to catch anything.

**JAMES:** Come on, John. You know as well as I do that Thomas is right. We've been out here all night! How many times do we cast our nets and bring up nothing? We should all go back to Peter's house. I'm sure his wife, Anna, could find us something to eat. Maybe some bread and cheese...?

**PETER:** Are you kidding?! The last time you all ate with us she made me stay up after you'd gone and clean up your mess! I'm not doing *that* again!

**JAMES:** Mmmmm...she makes the best fish cakes in all of Galilee!

**THOMAS:** *(Perturbed.)* We don't *HAVE* any fish, James; so stop tormenting us! Besides, I doubt Peter's wife would like us barging in before dawn asking for breakfast.

**ANDREW:** *(Punches THOMAS.)* Yeah...well, you *DOUBT* just about *everything*, Thomas!

**JOHN:** You know, I still can't figure out why you wouldn't believe us when we told you we'd seen the Lord. Think about it, Thomas; your own friends?

**PETER:** *(Teasing THOMAS.)* Now Thomas, are you *sure* it was Jesus' hands and side you touched? Did you examine his feet too and check his head for any scars? *(ANDREW bursts out laughing but stops when THOMAS glares at him.)*

**THOMAS:** Hey! I was doubtful, all right?! I can't help it if I find it hard to accept when someone I know is dead just happens to come back to life! That's pretty *unusual*, don't you think?!

**JAMES:** *(Laughs.)* Well, it wasn't as if any of *us* believed Mary when she came with the news. I just thought, "Silly woman; she's lost her mind!"

**JOHN:** You should've come with us to the tomb, James. I'll never forget seeing the sepulcher empty. And the look on Peter's face...you'd have paid a talent of gold to see *that*! *(All but PETER laugh.)*

**PETER:** Ha! If I hadn't pushed past you and gone in, you never would've gotten up the nerve to enter and *see* my face!

**ANDREW:** *(Leans over the rail of boat.)* I wouldn't mind seeing Jesus' face right about now. Why hasn't He come yet?

**JAMES:** *(Joins ANDREW.)* I agree with Andrew. We've been here several days and still He doesn't come. We've been trying to pass the time out here fishing.

**THOMAS:** And we can't even get the fish to show up!

**JOHN:** You should know by now, brothers; Jesus will come when it's the right time and not before.

**JESUS:** *(Calls from the back.)* Have you caught any fish, my friends?

**JMES/THM:** *(Tired and despondent, they yell back.)* NO! *(They look at each other.)*

**JESUS:** Why don't you cast your nets on the *other* side? You may find some there. *(They don't recognize JESUS' voice and can't see Him from that distance. They think it's just a stranger passing by.)*

**JAMES:** *(Miffed, he speaks to the others.)* Like we haven't thought of *that?! We've been fishing (His last words are out to the "stranger.") our whole lives! (JAMES starts putting the net away.)*

**PETER:** *(He and JOHN exchange a puzzled look.)* No, wait. Do as he says...*(JAMES and THOMAS stop and just stare at PETER as if he's lost his mind, but PETER persists.)* We've nothing to lose and we're out here anyway. John, give them a hand. Throw the net over the right side...

**SONG # 4 - FISHERS OF MEN**  
**Peter, Andrew, James, John, and Thomas**

**JOHN:** I can't quite see the stranger on the shore...

**ANDREW:** *(Spoken)* Grab the net!

**JOHN:** But I get the feeling that all of us have seen him before.

**JAMES:** *(Spoken)* Who's shaking the boat?!

**PETER:** The last time I heeded a stranger on the shore...

**THOMAS:** *(Spoken)* Who's pulling on the nets?!

**PETER:** My net nearly broke from the hundreds of fish that it bore.

**JAMES:** *(Spoken)* Who's shaking the *BOAT?!*

**THOMAS:** *(Spoken)* Who's pulling on the *NETS?!*

**PETER:** *(Spoken)* It's slipping! Pull harder!

**JAMES:** A man who could calm the sea with His hand;  
He walked on top of the water as if it were land.

**JOHN:** *(Spoken)* It's too heavy! Hold on!

**ANDREW:** I can't believe it was only a year or two ago,  
That we promised to follow the Master wherever He'd go.

**JAMES:** *(Spoken. He laughs.)* Here we go again!

**ALL:** He said, "Come, follow Me, and I'll make you fishers of men.  
If you'll come, follow Me, I will teach you how to be great fishers of men."  
We said, "We'll follow You, if You'll make us fishers of men.  
We will come, follow You, if You'll teach us how to be great fishers of men."

**PETER:** *(Spoken)* Come on! Pull the net up!

**ALL:** We've waited for the Lord in Galilee.

**JAMES:** And if I'm not mistaken, that's Him that I see!

**PETER:** *(Spoken)* It's slipping! Pull harder!

**ANDREW:** Make haste! Pull up the nets before they fail.

**P/Jm/Jn/Th:** *(Spoken)* *HEAVE!!*

**ANDREW:** Let's head for the shore, men! Someone hoist up the sail!  
*(One last heave and the net is in the boat.)*

**ALL:** He said, "Come, follow Me, and I'll make you fishers of men.  
If you'll come, follow Me, I will teach you how to be great fishers of men."  
We said, "We'll follow You, if You'll make us fishers of men.  
We will come, follow You, if You'll teach us how to be great fishers of men."

**JAMES:** *(Spoken)* Look at all these fish! He did it *AGAIN!!*

**PETER:** I need some time alone to talk to Him.  
Andrew, bring 'er on in; I've decided to swim! *(Spoken)* *JESUS!!*  
*(PETER jumps overboard. The others holler after him.)*

**ANDREW:** Peter, come back here!

**THOMAS:** Are you *CRAZY?! It's YOUR boat!!*

**JAMES:** You can't even swim!!

**JOHN:** The water's freezing....you're gonna cramp up, Peter!

**JAMES:** Oh...for *Pete's* sake!



**ALLFOUR:** *(On the final chord, they all throw up their hands and dismiss PETER with a wave, disgusted.) AWwwwwww!*

**(BLACKOUT)**

**ACT ONE SC 4:** *JESUS stands next to the fire with P. A. J. J. and T. around Him. The light from the fire illumines JESUS' face. PETER stands next to JESUS and the other three are seated around the fire. They have just finished eating from their miraculous catch that morning.)*

**JAMES:** *(Looking completely content and relaxed.) Ahhh...after all those years of being a fisherman, I can't remember when fish tasted better!*

**THOMAS:** *Could it be because we were out all night and didn't catch a single fish and we were starving?!*

**JOHN:** *(Gives JAMES a look.) James always thinks he's starving! (They all laugh.)*

**PETER:** *(Pats JAMES' stomach, somewhat reserved.) From the looks of this, I'd say he's had MORE than his share of fish this morning! (The disciples laugh again.)*

**JESUS:** *If you can be that patient fishing for fish, how much more patient will you be as fishers of men?*

**JAMES:** *(Aside to JOHN but so everyone hears.) I wouldn't exactly use the word "patient" for Thomas! (They all laugh; but THOMAS fakes a laugh then hits JAMES to make him stop laughing.)*

**PETER:** *Truthfully, Lord, we were ALL a bit grumpy by the time You arrive. We had toiled all night and hadn't caught a single fish in our nets. I'd say we were being persistent, or perhaps "stubborn," more than patient. (The others agree with nods and "that's right," etc.)*

**JOHN:** *(With gentleness.) How can we be good fishers of men, Lord?*

**JESUS:** *(Before answering He lovingly looks at each one.) Love...*

**PETER:** *(Puzzled.) Love...?*

**JESUS:** *(He looks down at the fire, but extends his hand to the other disciples as He addresses PETER.) Simon Barjona, do you love Me more than them?*

**PETER:** *(Barely glancing at the others, he answers quickly.) Yes, Lord. You know that I love You.*

**JESUS:** *(Never taking His eyes off the fire.) Then feed My lambs. (The others squirm, become uneasy, restless as the awkward silence grows; then JESUS speaks again to PETER.) Simon Barjona, do you love Me?*

**PETER:** *(With more conviction.) Yes, my Lord. You know that I love You.*

**JESUS:** *(Still looking into the fire.) Then tend My sheep. (The others are a bit nervous and feel for PETER and what he must be going through. Yet, there is nothing for them to do but wait, watch, and listen when JESUS once again asks PETER the same question, this time looking full into his eyes as He speaks.) Simon Barjona, do you love Me?*

**PETER:** *(Heartsick that JESUS must ask him three times, he nearly breaks down when he answers.) Lord, You know all things. You know that I love You.*

**JESUS:** *(Still looking into PETER'S eyes.) Then feed My sheep. (Peter sadly looks away, but JESUS puts a hand on his shoulder. Hopeful, PETER turns back to JESUS to see him smile.) I once told you that you could not follow Me to prison and to death, but that after My resurrection, you would follow Me. Do you remember, Simon Peter?*