

**THE APOSTLE KNOWN
TO HAVE A
'FOOT-SHAPED
MOUTH'**

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WHO IS Simon Peter?

Key Quote By Jesus	“You are blessed, Simon son of John, because my Father in heaven has revealed this to you. You did not learn this from any human being. ¹⁸ Now I say to you that you are Peter (which means ‘rock’), and upon this rock I will build my church, and all the powers of hell will not conquer it. <i>Jesus to Simon Peter Matthew 16:17-18</i>
Key Characteristics	• Defacto leader of apostles. • Enthusiastic to a fault. • Always Outspoken. • Eager. • Willing. • Sincere
His Names	• His name “Simon” means “God has heard.” • His name Peter means “Rock.” Peter (Jesus renamed him) • AKA: Simeon (Hebrew), Cephas (Aramaic=Rock), Petros (Greek)
Family	He was brother to another Apostle, Andrew. Son of Jonah (Matt. 4:18, John 1:40, I Cor. 1:12)
His Profession	Originally a fisherman, he worked with his brother, Andrew, and was partners with another apostle brother team James and John in their father Zebedee’s fishing business.
His Home	Originally from Bethsaida (John 1:44), Had a home in Capernaum on the north shore of the Sea of Galilee. (Mark 1:29)
Did You Know	Simon Peter’s name appears first on every list of the twelve apostles. Matthew 10:2-4, Mark 3:16-19, Luke 6:13-16. Although Jesus renames Simon “Peter” (John 1:42) and that name gradually replaces Simon, Jesus always calls him Simon, never Peter.
Specifically Mentioned In The Bible (Key incidents only)	• Renaming: John 1:42 • Healing of family member: Matthew 8:14 • Jairus’ daughter: Mark 5:36, Luke 8:50 • Walking on water: Matthew 14 • His declaration regarding Jesus: Matthew 16:13, Mark 8:29 • Transfiguration: Matthew 17, Mark 9, Luke 9:28 • Jesus’ rebukes: Matthew 16:23, Mark 8:32, Mark 14:37, John 18:11 • Foot washing by Jesus: John 13 • His denial: Matthew 26, Mark 14, Luke 22, John 13

	• Foot In Mouth Incidents: Mark 10:28, Mark 8:33, Mark 14:31, Matthew 8:45, Luke 9:33, Luke 22:33, John 13:8, John 13:37, John 18:10, John 21:17 • Resurrection: Luke 24:12, 34, John 20
His Final Conversation with Jesus	John 21
Actual Quotes (only key ones mentioned)	• “Tell us, when will all this happen? What sign will show us that these things are about to be fulfilled?” (Mark 13:4) • “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” Matthew 16:16 • “You are the Messiah, sent from God!” Luke 9:20 • “A curse on me if I’m lying—I don’t know this man you’re talking about!” (Mark 14:71) • “Oh, Lord, please leave me—I’m too much of a sinner to be around you.” (Luke 5:8) • “Lord, is that illustration just for us or for everyone?” Luke 12:41
Best Known For	• Being renamed “The Rock” by Jesus Matthew 16:18 • Being part of the “privileged” inner circle of the apostles: Jariu’s daughter (Mark 5:21-43, The transfiguration (Matthew 17:1-13), in Gethsemane (Matthew 26:37) • Walking on water to Jesus Matthew 14:22-36 • Cutting off slave’s ear in the Garden of Gethsemane John 18:10 • Denying Christ three times Matthew 26:31-35, 69-75

The boldest, most colorful and most well-known of all the apostles Simon (renamed Peter by Jesus of Nazareth himself) has been at the forefront of this movement almost since the moment of his recruitment. Although never acknowledged by Jesus of Nazareth as the official leader of the twelve, Simon Peter regularly assumed the role through word and deed. As a result, Simon Peter is the only apostle with whom we have enough significant documentation to form a vital impression.

Jesus of Nazareth made an almost instantaneous prediction regarding Simon Peter stating within moments of making his acquaintance, “Upon this rock I will build my church, and all the powers of hell will not conquer it.” Simon’s “new” name – Peter (Petros, Cephas) means literally “rock.” It is significant to note that despite his renaming of Simon, Jesus of Nazareth *never* called him by this new name implying that this distinctive title was something for Simon Peter to grow into rather than immediately assume.

What prompted Jesus of Nazareth to bestow this distinctive name on Simon Peter? It was Simon Peter’s answer to Jesus of Nazareth’s question, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” Jesus of Nazareth regularly referred to himself not by name but as the “Son of Man”. This title was vehemently objected to by almost all religious leaders of the time for its direct reference to the prophet Daniel’s vision that he “*saw someone like a son of man coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient One and was led into his presence. He was given authority, honor, and sovereignty over all the nations of the world, so that people of every race and nation and language would obey him. His rule is eternal—it will never end. His kingdom will never be destroyed.*” Daniel 7:13-14. Peter in what would become classic behavior responded immediately and with heartfelt sincerity, “You are the messiah, the Son of the living God.” (Matthew 16:16) Jesus’ renaming of Simon Peter also included a stunning praise, “You are blessed, Simon son of John, because my Father in heaven has revealed this to you. You did not learn

this from any human being.” (Matthew 16:17) It would seem that from the start, Simon Peter had a deep seated, spiritual understanding of who and what Jesus of Nazareth was before almost everyone else.

One of the specially chosen three apostles who regularly witnessed things the other nine did not (along with John and James Zebedee), Simon Peter was a vivid presence each and every day spent with Jesus of Nazareth. There was the fascinating account of Simon Peter walking towards Jesus *on the surface of the Sea of Galilee* (Matthew 14:22-36) only to sink embarrassingly and require rescuing. Always at the forefront, it is an inarguable fact that Simon Peter’s reputation grew right along with Jesus of Nazareth’s.



**A committed
apostle never
quits ... no
matter how
stark the
reality.**



During Holy Week in which Jesus of Nazareth entered Jerusalem as a triumphant king had to be one of the greatest moments of Simon Peter’s time as an apostle. Despite numerous prophetic statements regarding his impending arrest and death, Simon Peter seemed unwilling or unable to grasp the depth to which Jesus of Nazareth would fall. The inability to accept reality can be a deadly fault. Jesus of Nazareth worked diligently to fix that flaw in all of his apostles, in particular Peter.

On that final Passover meal night, Jesus of Nazareth went as far as to prophetically predict what would inarguably be one of the worst moments of Peter’s life: his denial of his Messiah. But it was not until that final night at the Garden of Gethsemane on the Mount of Olives when Temple guards and Roman soldiers arrived and arrested Jesus of Nazareth that Peter began to truly understand all that Jesus of Nazareth had been trying to get him to comprehend. And it was not until the rooster crowed for the second time in the courtyard of High Priest Caiaphas’ home and Peter met the knowing eyes of Jesus of Nazareth across the room did this first and foremost apostle truly understand not only what the future held but how terribly equipped he was to succeed.

Simon Peter’s significant place among the apostles became a huge void as he struggled with his shattered self-worth. Despite numerous early reports, all apostles refused to believe that Jesus of Nazareth rose from the dead that third day. Eyewitness accounts from trustworthy sources were not accepted and, stunningly, even after seeing and speaking with the risen Jesus of Nazareth, the group as a whole still trembled with fear for their lives behind locked doors. Confused and aimless, a number of the apostles fell back on old interests and ... went fishing.

Jesus of Nazareth’s final appearance was to seven of his disciples (Simon Peter, Thomas, Nathanael Bartholomew, James and John Zebedee, and 2 others). It was at the same location where it had stared for many of them: the Sea of Galilee. In a carefully worded conversation, Jesus of Nazareth questioned Simon Peter’s loyalty not once, not twice but three times.

Jesus didn’t address Simon Peter’s failures, but instead focused on the wonderful quality that had distinguished Simon Peter from the first: his heart. Asking him three separate times, “Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?” Jesus of Nazareth ignored the inescapable failures of Simon Peter’s past and instead focused on what he knew had not wavered – his loving devotion.

“You know I love you,” Simon Peter had responded.

“Feed and care for my sheep,” Jesus had told Simon Peter. *Do what you were called to do, what you’ve committed to do, what I know you can do.*

Simon Peter, Jesus’ self-proclaimed rock, continued to be fine-tuned to perfection; rough edges worn carefully and resolutely away until only the best of the best was left.

Discussion Questions:

1. Was Simon Peter's walk on water a victory or a failure? Why? How does Simon Peter's reaction of actually stepping out of the boat compare to the other apostles? Matthew 14, Mark 6, John 6
2. Did Jesus' prediction help or harm Simon Peter after his inevitable denial? Matthew 26, Mark 14, Luke 22, John 13
3. How can Simon Peter's faults be used positively for future responsibilities?
4. What positive changes came about as a result of Simon Peter's negative experiences?