

GOD'S WAY WITH



HIS SERVANTS

Dr. Scott Hanberry
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**Session 5 -God Uses People Who Make Mistakes:
The life of Simon Johnson**

Session 5 - Lessons from the Life of Simon Johnson...

First, let's review:

- Abraham - _____ (Session 1 - Where, When) (Session 2 - How, Why)
- Moses - _____ (Seasons... God redeems and uses all of our experiences)
- David - _____ -SHAPING (Trust and hope in God transcends external turmoil)

Now, let's preview

- Peter RESTORATION (God redeems, transforms, restores and uses flawed, sinful people)

1. Indecisive: It took three calls to get Peter, What lesson did he learn? _____
2. Unbelief: Peter sank in the storm, what lesson did he learn? _____
3. Peter jumped to conclusions: rebuked by Jesus. What lesson did he learn? _____
4. Hasty, hot-headed, given to anger... What lesson did he learn? _____
5. Embarrassment & Shame: Denied Jesus three times. What lesson did he learn? _____
6. Restoration from failure. What lesson did he learn? _____

PETER'S _____

“He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, ‘We have found the Messiah’ (which is translated, the Christ). And he brought him to Jesus. Now when Jesus looked at him, He said, ‘You are Simon the son of Jonah. You shall be called Cephas’ (which is translated, Peter...A Stone)” (John 1:41-42).

Some are influenced by family. “Andrew . . . first found his own brother” (v. 41-42).

Peter needed vision and hope. “We have found . . . the Christ” (v. 41).

Peter needed coaxing. “He gently nudged him to Jesus (v. 42, ELT).

God's Way:

Jesus knows us better than we know ourselves. What does he say to him...

Jesus changes us inwardly and outwardly. “You are Simon . . . you shall be a rock” (v. 42).

Jesus gives us new expectations to stretch us. “You shall be” (v. 42).

PETER'S _____

Matthew 14:22-33

Immediately He made the disciples get into the boat and go ahead of Him to the other side, while He sent the crowds away. After He had sent the crowds away, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray; and when it was evening, He was there alone. But the boat was already a long distance from the land, battered by the waves; for the wind was contrary. And in the fourth watch of the night He came to them, walking on the sea. When the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were terrified, and said, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid."

Peter said to Him, "Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water." And He said, "Come!" And Peter got out of the boat, and walked on the water and came toward Jesus. But seeing the wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" Immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and took hold of him, and *said to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" When they got into the boat, the wind stopped. And those who were in the boat worshiped Him, saying, "You are certainly God's Son!"

Jesus leads us to face a storm to strengthen our faith.

"Jesus made His disciples get into the boat and go . . . to the other side" (v. 22).

- Your next destination may not be the ultimate purpose
- The journey, not the destination, was Jesus' intended classroom!
- Your next destination may be a storm
- You next destination may squeeze your faith

When we face storms, Jesus is interceding for us.

"He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray" (v. 23).

"He always lives to make intercession for them" (Heb. 7:25).

- Jesus sees us in the storm. "He saw them straining at the oars" (Mark 6:43).
- Our self effort may not get us out of our storm. "Straining at the oars" (Mark 6:43).
- Jesus waits to let our storms prepare our hearts. "In the fourth watch (3:00 am) Jesus came walking" (v. 25).

The presence of Jesus comes to us in our storms.

"Jesus went to them walking" (v. 25).

- Our unbelief prevents us from seeing Jesus coming. "When the disciples saw . . . they cried out" (v. 26).
- We need spiritual ears to hear Jesus' comfort. "Be of good cheer, it is I, do not be afraid" (v. 27).
- Jesus sometimes waits or doesn't answer our prayer. "He . . . would have passed them by" (Mark 6:48).
- Faith response. "Peter answered . . . Lord if it is you, command me to come to You" (v. 28).

Why is This Remarkable?

The Fisherman knows but goes on water.

The Follower doesn't wait but walks to Jesus

The disciple doesn't falter but has faith.

What is the source of confidence in our storm?

"It is I, do not be afraid" (John 6:20).

The basis of faith and water walking is Jesus' _____. "Come" (v. 29).

Walking is moving toward a goal, i.e., Christ. "Follow His steps" (I Peter 3:21).

"As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him" (Col. 2:6).

Look at what Peter did right. "When Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water" Peter didn't step out on water, he stepped out on the command of Jesus, "Come." (v. 29).

Look at what Peter did wrong. "When he saw that the wind was boisterous" (v. 30).

Why did Peter sink? _____

When you sink in the storms of life, what must you do?

Call on the Lord. "Lord save me!" (v. 30).

Why do we sink in the storms of life? Doubt. "O you of little faith" (v. 31).

Jesus caught Peter with his hand. "Jesus stretched out His hand" (v. 31).

Jesus can get us through storms to the other side. "Immediately the boat was at the land where they were going."

We must thank God for getting us through our storms. "Those who were in the boat ... worshiped him" (v. 33).