

# Preparing a Fisherman for a “Harvest” { A Shavuot Story }

## Peter’s Calling

Now as **Jesus** was walking by the Sea of Galilee,  
**He** saw two brothers, **Simon** who was called **Peter**, and **Andrew** his brother,  
casting a net into the sea; for they were *fishermen*.

And **He** said to them,  
“**Follow Me**, and I will make you **fishers of men**.”  
*Immediately* they left their nets and **followed Him**. (Matthew 4:18-20)

## Peter’s Compulsive Character

- A. *Requesting* that **he too**, be allowed to walk on water (Matthew 14:28-32)
- B. *Rebuking* the **Lord** regarding **His** impending death (Matthew 16:22-23)
- C. *Refusing* to allow his **feet** to be washed (John 13:6-11)
- D. *Rashly cutting off* the ear of the **high priest’s** servant (Mark 14:47)

## Peter’s Confession of Faith

Now when **Jesus** came into the district of Caesarea Philippi,  
**He (Jesus)** was asking **His disciples**,  
“Who do **people say** that the **Son of Man is?**”

<sup>14</sup> And they said, “Some say **John the Baptist**; and others, **Elijah**;  
but still others, **Jeremiah**, or one of the **prophets**.”  
**He** said to them, “But who do you say that *I am?*”

**Simon Peter** answered, “**You** are the **Messiah**, the **Son** of the **living God**.”

And **Jesus** said to him, “**Blessed** are you, **Simon Barjona**,  
because **flesh and blood** did *not* reveal *this* to you,  
but **My Father** who is in **heaven**.”

I also say to you that you are **Peter**,  
and upon **this rock** I will build **My church**;  
and the **gates of Hades** will **not** overpower it. (Matthew 13:16-18)

## Peter’s Boastful Claim

Then **Jesus** said to them (**His disciples**),

“You will all **fall away** because of **Me** this night, for it is **written**,

‘I WILL **STRIKE DOWN** THE **SHEPHERD**,  
AND THE **SHEEP** OF THE FLOCK SHALL BE **SCATTERED.**’  
But after I have been **raised**, I will go ahead of you to **Galilee.**”

But **Peter** said to **Him**,  
“Even though **all may fall away** because of **You**,  
I will **never fall away.**”

**Jesus** said to **him**,  
“Truly I say to you that **this very night**, before a **rooster** crows,  
**you will deny Me three times.**”

**Peter** said to **Him**,  
“Even if I have to **die with You**, I will **not deny You.**”  
**All** the **disciples** said the **same thing** too. (Matthew 26: 31-35)

### **Peter’s Collapse**

Having **arrested Him (Jesus)**,  
they led **Him** away and brought **Him** to the **house** of the **high priest**;  
but **Peter** was **following** at a **distance**.

After they had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard  
and had sat down together,  
**Peter** was sitting among them.

And a **servant-girl**, seeing him (**Peter**)  
as he sat in the firelight and looking intently at him,  
said, “This man was **with Him too.**” But **he denied it**, saying,  
“Woman, I do **not** know **Him.**”

A little later, **another** saw him and said,  
“You are **one** of them too!” But **Peter** said, “Man, I am **not!**”

After about an hour had passed, **another man** began to insist,  
saying, “Certainly **this man** also was with **Him**,  
for he is a **Galilean** too.”

But **Peter** said, “Man, I **do not** know what you are talking about.”  
**Immediately**, while he was still speaking, a **rooster** crowed.

The **Lord** turned and **looked** at **Peter**.  
And **Peter** remembered the **word of the Lord**, how **He** had told him,

“Before a **rooster** crows today, you will **deny Me three times.**”  
And he **went out** and **wept bitterly**. (Luke 22:54-62)

### **Peter’s Ministry Confirmation**

So when 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, “**Tend My lambs.**”

**He** said to him **again** 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, “**Shepherd My sheep.**”

**He** 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 **all things**;  
**You know** that I love You.” **Jesus** said to him, “**Tend My sheep.**  
(John 21:15-17)

### **Peter’s Ministry Commences**

When the day of **Pentecost (Shavuot)** had come,  
they were **all together** in one place...

And they were all **filled** with the **Holy Spirit** and began to speak  
with **other tongues**, as the **Spirit** was giving them **utterance.**

Now there were **Jews** living in **Jerusalem**,  
devout men from **every nation** under heaven...

But **Peter**, taking his stand with the **eleven**,  
raised his voice and **declared** to them:  
“**Men of Judea** and all you who live in **Jerusalem**,  
let this be known to you and **give heed** to **my words...**

...**Jesus the Nazarene**, a man **attested to you by God**  
with **miracles** and **wonders** and **signs** which **God performed through Him**  
in your **midst**, just as you yourselves know—

**this Man**, delivered over by the **predetermined plan** and **foreknowledge**  
**of God**, you nailed to a **cross** by the hands of **godless men** and **put Him to death.**

But **God raised Him up again**, putting an **end to the agony of death**,  
since it was **impossible** for **Him** to be held in its power...

**Peter said** to them, “**Repent**, and each of you **be baptized**  
in the **name of Jesus the Messiah** for the **forgiveness** of your sins;  
and you will receive the **gift** of the **Holy Spirit...**

And with many **other words he (Peter)** solemnly **testified**  
and kept on **exhorting them**, saying,  
“Be **saved** from this **perverse generation!**”

So then, those who had **received his word** were **baptized**;  
and **that day** there were **added** about **three thousand souls**.  
(Acts 2:1, 4-5, 14, 22b-24, 38, 40-41)

## Shavuot Reflections

- A. The **Feast of Shavuot** reminds us that the **feasts** of the **Lord** are not only times of **celebration** and **remembrance**, but that they point to **events** that are **predicted** to happen according to **God’s prophetic purposes**.

On this **Shavuot**, **fifty days** after **Messiah’s resurrection**, when **Peter** boldly stood up and **preached** the **gospel**, these **key biblical events** took place:

1. The **coming** of the **Holy Spirit** to **indwell believers** (Acts 1:6-8, 2:1-3, 16-18)
  2. The **commencement** of this **present age** known as the “**church age**,” whereby both **Jewish** and **Gentile believers** in **Messiah** are called into **one “body” of believers** (Ephesians 2:11-16, 3:2-6) (I Corinthians 12:13)
  3. The **cultivating** of a “**spiritual harvest**,” the **firstfruits** of those who would be **saved by faith** in the “**Lamb of God** who **takes away the sins** of the **world!**” (John 1:18) (I Peter 1:18-19) (John 3:16) (Romans 3:21-22)
- B. The **Feast of Shavuot** is a **yearly reminder** that the “**spiritual harvest**,” begun at the **beginning** of this age (on **Shavuot**), is ongoing, and that we must continue the priorities of **evangelism** and **discipleship**, and “**gather fruit for life eternal**.” (Joh 4:34-36) (Matthew 28:18-20) (Romans 1:13-17)
- C. The **Feast of Shavuot** is a **celebration** concerning the “**first fruits**” of the **harvest**, and is a **reminder** to **give thanks** and **rejoice** in **God’s gracious provision** for both our **physical** and **spiritual needs**. (Matthew 6:26) (Philippians 4:19) (II Peter 1:3)

## Communion