

The Twelve Disciples: Peter

By Pastor Jason Unzicker

Have you ever wondered what it would take to make your faith solid as a rock? Hi I'm Jason Unzicker, Pastor of Oak Street Baptist church, speaking to you today about obedience to God's word.

Now, maybe you know someone that you consider "rock solid" in their faith. Maybe this person is your pastor, spiritual mentor or a parent whose faith has been an inspiration to you.

Well, the Bible describes one of the 12 disciples to be this type of person. His name--Simon Peter, and he was one of the first disciples that Jesus called to follow him.

The story is found in Luke chapter 5 and it goes something like this, One day Jesus was standing by the Sea of Galilee with the people crowding around him and listening as He taught the Word of God. Then, Jesus noticed two boats at the water's edge, left there by the fisherman who were busy washing their nets. Jesus got into the boat that belonged to Simon Peter and asked him to get into the boat and push them off shore. After Peter pushed them off shore, Jesus sat down and taught the people from the boat. When he had finished speaking, he said to Peter, Row out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch of fish. Simon answered, Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets. After they rowed out to the deep and let down their nets, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break, and everyone was astonished at the catch of fish they had taken.

Now, to us this situation may not seem so astonishing, but if we knew a little more about fishing in the Sea of Galilee in the first century, then I'm convinced we too would be astonished not just concerning this catch of fish, but also concerning Peter's faith.

You see, Peter told Jesus that he and his companions had been fishing all night and had caught nothing. They were now done for the day, washing their nets, ready to clock out and go home. Any good fisherman at that time knew that the best time to catch fish in that lake was during the night when the fish would come close enough to the surface to be caught in a net. Furthermore, the best place to catch these fish was in the shallows, near the shore line, and what Jesus asked Peter to do was to try fishing again, and to try it in the worst possible place at the worst possible time.

No wonder Peter responded to Jesus in this way. Here was the son of a carpenter, inexperienced in fishing, telling a professional fisherman how to do his job. Peter was confused. No doubt, he was questioning how successful this fishing trip would be.

But, you know, God's Word instructs us to do many things that we may not completely understand or we may not completely see how profitable following such an instruction would be. In this way we can all relate to Peter in his confusion and questioning, and I hope we all can also learn to relate to him in his response to Jesus saying, "Because you say so, I will do it."

You see, although Peter didn't understand why Jesus was asking him to do this strange task, he didn't let his confusion steer his faith away from responding in obedience to the one he addressed as "Master."

And so, it was Peter's commitment to obedience that made him this spiritual rock. In fact, the name Peter means "Rock" and as he continued to walk with the Lord over the next three years, Peter was committed to building his faith upon his obedience to the words of Jesus.

How about you? Do you consider yourself a spiritual rock? Would you like to become rock solid in your faith? If so, you too need to make a commitment today to become obedient to God's Holy Word. Even in the midst of our own confusion, we must trust in God's Word as the truth and respond to our Master by saying, "Because you say so, I will do it."

This is the type of person that Jesus considers to be a spiritual rock.

This is Pastor Jason Unzicker reminding you to live this day for God and for his glory alone.