

Peter

What makes a good leader? What are the qualities/skills in evidence?

When you think of Peter (prior to Pentecost) what qualities/skills come to mind?

Simon bar Jona – sometimes Simeon... Jona could also be Jonah or John

Simon was a common name at the time

Originally from Bethsaida

Had moved to Capernaum (means “house of the fisherman”) by time he met Jesus

We know he was married (Mark 1:30 p. 1553), but nothing more about the wife or any children

Fisherman by trade

In the business with his brother Andrew, and according to Luke 5:10, the brothers John and James were business partners

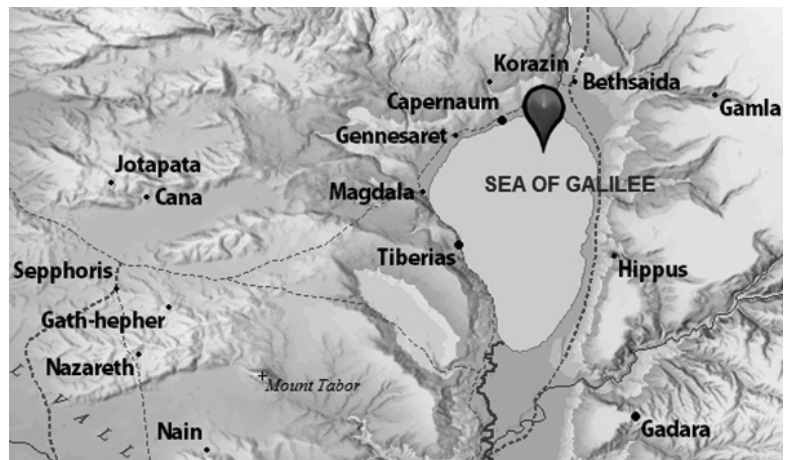
Probably spoke Aramaic with a Galilean accent (Matthew 26:73 p. 1546)
Probably also spoke some Koine Greek (common Greek language of the area)

From last week: Different stories about the first calling in each Gospel

Peter is always first on any list of the 12

Also among the inner group who were with Jesus for special revelations

- Transfiguration
- Garden of Gethsemane
- One of two who ran to the empty tomb



Jesus gave him the name Cephas (Aramaic) meaning “rock”

In Greek this translates to Petros

Matthew 16:17-19 (p. 1524)

Yet Peter was often brash, vacillating, undependable, impulsive

Why would Jesus call him a “rock”?

A reminder of who he should be

When he calls Peter “Simon” instead

Luke 22:31 (p. 1638)

Mark 14:37 (p. 1580)

John 21:15-17 (p. 1688)

Foot in mouth disease?

Biblical scholar John MacArthur refers to him as “the apostle with the foot-shaped mouth”

He boldly proclaimed Jesus as Messiah

But he also was the only disciple to deny knowing him

Only one that Jesus called “Satan”

Why might Jesus have been harder on Peter than the others?

Peter came to Jesus with raw makings of a leader, but it was his time with Jesus that molded the raw material into the leader Jesus required

What did Peter learn?

From cutting off an ear to 1 Peter 2:13-18 (p. 1888) ... is this the same man?

Post Pentecost – what changed?

Acts of the Apostles – First part highlights work of Peter

- Became primary spokesman for the 12
- His “sermon” on Pentecost
- Preached regularly in the Temple
- Arrested by Herod – freed by an angel (Acts 12, p. 1712)

Accepting Gentiles – Cornelius and the dream – Acts 10

Tradition has that Peter died in Rome during Nero’s persecutions

- Vatican Hill the site of his death?
- Crucified upside down?