

CEPHAS AND JESUS

CEPHAS was a fisherman in Bethsaida.



Does anyone remember the story of Cephas?

Jesus Is the Lamb of God

²⁹ The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him. John said, “Look! The Lamb of God! He takes away the sin of the world! ³⁰ This is the One I was talking about. I said, ‘A man who comes after me is more important than I am. That’s because he existed before I was born.’ ³¹ I did not know him. But God wants to make it clear to Israel who this person is. That’s the reason I came baptizing with water.”

³² Then John told them, “I saw the Holy Spirit come down from heaven like a dove. The Spirit remained on Jesus. ³³ I would not have known him. But the One who sent me to baptize with water told me, ‘You will see the Spirit come down and remain on someone. He is the One who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.’ ³⁴ I have seen it happen. I give witness that this is the Son of God.”

Jesus Chooses the First Disciples

³⁵ The next day John was again with two of his disciples. ³⁶ He saw Jesus walking by. John said, “Look! The Lamb of God!”

³⁷ The two disciples heard him say this. So they followed Jesus.

³⁸ Then Jesus turned around and saw them following. He asked, “What do you want?” They said, “Rabbi, where are you staying?” *Rabbi* means Teacher.

³⁹ “Come,” he replied. “You will see.”

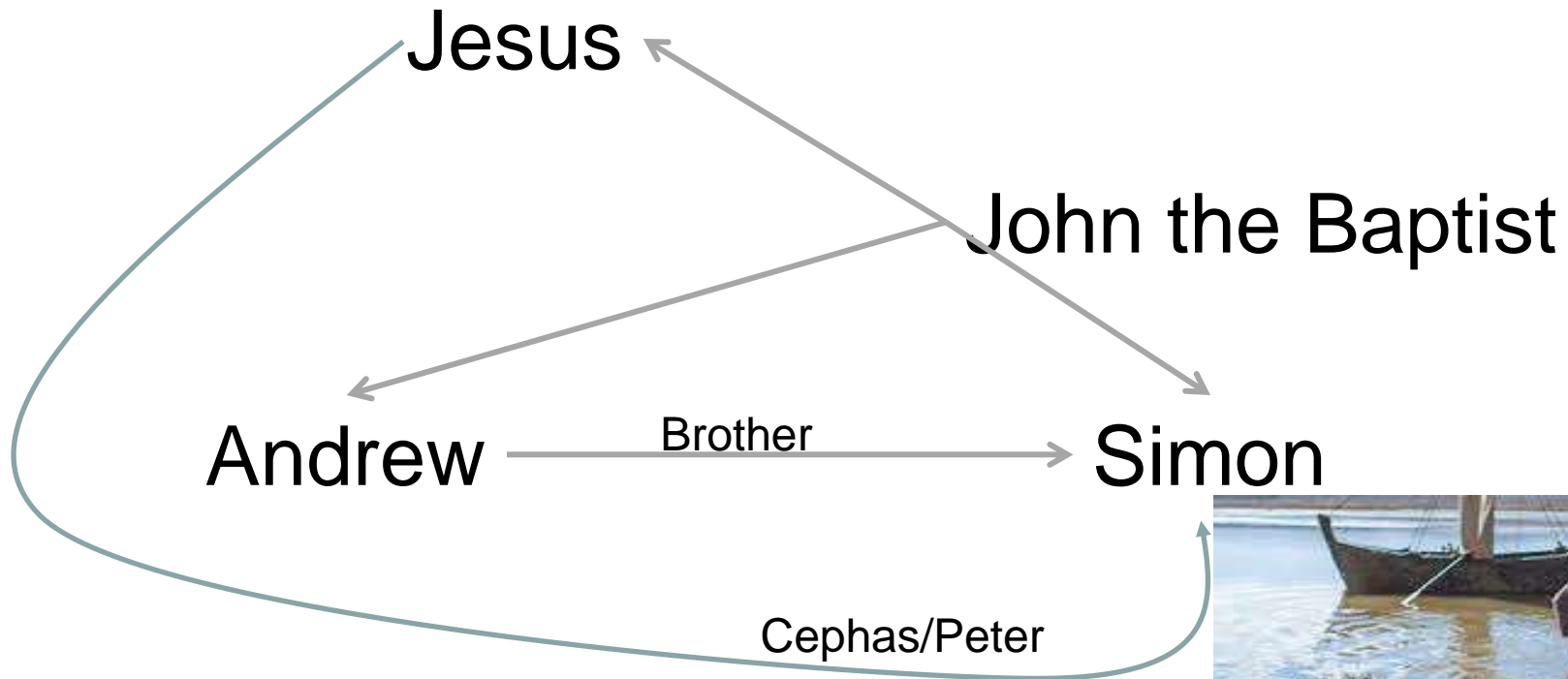
So they went and saw where he was staying. They spent the rest of the day with him. It was about four o’clock in the afternoon.

⁴⁰ Andrew was Simon Peter’s brother. Andrew was one of the two disciples who heard what John had said. He had also followed Jesus. ⁴¹ The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon. He told him, “We have found the Messiah.” Messiah means Christ. ⁴² And he brought Simon to Jesus.

Jesus looked at him and said, “You are Simon, son of John. You will be called Cephas.” Cephas means Peter (or rock). [John 1 NIRV]

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Tracing the story path...



Jesus took over John the Baptists disciples

¹⁸ One day Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee. There he saw two brothers. They were Simon Peter and his brother Andrew. They were throwing a net into the lake. They were fishermen. ¹⁹ “Come. Follow me,” Jesus said. “I will make you fishers of people.” See also Mark 1:16-17

²⁰ At once they left their nets and followed him.

²¹ Going on from there, he saw two other brothers. They were James, son of Zebedee, and his brother John. They were in a boat with their father Zebedee. As they were preparing their nets, Jesus called out to them.

²² Right away they left the boat and their father and followed Jesus. [Matt 4]

The accounts differ right?

38 Then Jesus turned around and saw them following. He asked, “What do you want?”

They said, “Rabbi, where are you staying?” Rabbi means Teacher.

39 “Come,” he replied. “You will see.”

Do they differ a lot?

Putting it together... John the Baptist was with his disciples, Simon Peter and Andrew, near their fishing boats, when Jesus wanders past. John points him out. They join Jesus, leaving John the Baptist to go home with Jesus. On the way Jesus gets other fishermen James and John(not Baptist) leave their father to join him as he goes home.

(What type of person get's fishermen type to voluntarily dump their dad to want to party with him?)

(What does this say about Jesus?)



Peter or Cephas (then Simon) was a fisherman along with his brother Andrew and the sons of Zebedee, James and John.

What type of person starts off with one leader and then changes to the next at a moments notice, leaving the first?

What would be our attitude to a person who did that when following us?

What do you think John the Baptists attitude was?

²⁶ “I baptize people with water,” John replied. “But One is standing among you whom you do not know. ²⁷ He is the One who comes after me. I am not good enough to untie his sandals.” [John 1 NIRV]

CEPHAS AND JESUS

What does CEPHAS mean?

Peter's original name was "[Shimon](#)" or "Simeon" ("Simon" in modern English). He was later given the name "Peter", a name derived from the [Latin](#) "*Petrus*" which is a [masculinized](#) form of the [feminine](#) *petra* (*f*) which means "rock" (cf. [petroleum](#)). In [Greek](#), the same idea holds: "Πέτρος (Petros)" is derived from *πέτρα (petra)*. The [Latin](#) word "petra" is a [loanword](#) from Greek. Another version of this name is [Aramaic](#): *Šim'ōn Kêpâ* ([Classical Syriac](#): ܫܡܥܘܢ ܩܝܦܐ *Sēm'ān Kêpâ*), after his name in [Hellenised](#) Aramaic.

The English and German "Peter", the French "Pierre", the Italian "Pietro", the Spanish and Portuguese "Pedro", the Polish and Russian "Piotr" are derived from "Petrus". The derivation of "rock" is similar in several [Romance languages](#); Spanish (*piedra* (*f*)), Italian (*pietra* (*f*)), French (*pierre* (*f*)), Portuguese (*pedra* (*f*)) and the Romanian (*piatră* (*f*)).

The [Syriac](#) or [Aramaic](#) word for "rock" is *kepa*, which in Greek became [Greek](#): [Πέτρος](#), also meaning "rock".^{[13][14]} He is also known as **Simon Peter**, **Cephas** ([Greek](#): Κηφᾶς) and **Kepha** ([Hebrew](#): כִּיפָּא). Both *Cephas* and *Kepha* also mean rock.^[15]

Catholic theologian Rudolf Pesch argues that the Aramaic *cepha* means "stone, ball, clump, clew" and that "rock" is only a connotation; that the Greek *petra* denotes "grown rock, rocky range, cliff, grotto"; and that *petros* means "small stone, firestone, sling stone, moving boulder".^[16] [Wikipedia]

CEPHAS AND JESUS

Simon-Peter was the **son of Jonah**,

Matthew 16:17 (NIRV)

Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon, **son of Jonah**! No mere man showed this to you. My Father in heaven showed it to you.


Simon-Peter’s **mother-in-law** was personally healed by Jesus,

Matthew 18:14&15 (NIRV)

¹⁴ When Jesus came into Peter’s house, he saw Peter’s **mother-in-law**. She was lying in bed. She had a fever.

¹⁵ Jesus touched her hand, and the fever left her. She got up and began to wait on him.

CEPHAS AND JESUS



Another account

Mark 1:29-31 (NIRV)

²⁹ Jesus and those with him left the synagogue. Right away they went with James and John to the home of Simon and Andrew. ³⁰ Simon's **mother-in-law** was lying in bed. She had a fever. They told Jesus about her. ³¹ So he went to her. He took her hand and helped her up. The fever left her. Then she began to serve them.

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And another

3 accounts, significant to 3 apostles

Luke 4:38 (NIRV)

³⁸ Jesus left the synagogue and went to the home of Simon. At that time, Simon's **mother-in-law** was suffering from a high fever. So they asked Jesus to help her.

Simon-Peter's **mother-in-law** was personally healed by Jesus,

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¹⁴ When Jesus came into Peter's house, he saw Peter's mother-in-law. She was lying in bed. She had a fever.

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What did this mention of Peter's Mother-in-law imply?

HINT:

1 Corinthians 9:5 (NIRV)

⁵ Don't we have the right to take a believing wife with us when we travel? The other apostles do. The Lord's brothers do. Peter does.

Right! Peter was married...

CHURCH TRADITION: His wife is known in the East as Febronia and her feast is celebrated on June 28.

CEPHAS AND JESUS

Wealthy fishermen would own their own boat right? Others work for them. It's like that still today isn't it?

One day Jesus was standing by the Sea of Galilee. The people crowded around him and listened to the word of God. ² Jesus saw two boats at the edge of the water. They had been left there by the fishermen, who were washing their nets. ³ He got into the boat that belonged to Simon. Jesus asked him to go out a little way from shore. Then he sat down in the boat and taught the people. [Luke 5]

What does this tell us?

CEPHAS AND JESUS

Did Peter (Cephas) immediately decide whole heartedly to follow Jesus when Jesus took him home that first day?

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⁴ When he finished speaking, he turned to Simon. He said, “Go out into deep water. Let the nets down so you can catch some fish.”

⁵ 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.”

⁶ When they had done so, they caught a large number of fish. There were so many that their nets began to break. ⁷ So they motioned to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. They came and filled both boats so full that they began to sink.

⁸ When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus’ knees. “Go away from me, Lord!” he said. “I am a sinful man!”

⁹ He and everyone with him were amazed at the number of fish they had caught. ¹⁰ So were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, who worked with Simon.

Then Jesus said to Simon, “Don’t be afraid. From now on you will catch people.”

¹¹ So they pulled their boats up on shore. Then they left everything and followed him. [Luke 5]

Let’s bring this into a modern perspective....

CEPHAS AND JESUS

Changing the story a little to bring out some points

One day Jesus was standing outside the Bank. The people crowded around him and listened to the word of God. ² Jesus saw limos parked outside. They had been left there by business men who were checking their stocks. ³ He got into the limo that belonged to Simon. Jesus asked him to open the sunroof so he could stand there higher and separated from the crowds and talk them. Then he stood and taught the people.

⁴ When he finished speaking, he turned to Simon. He said, “Let’s go into the bank. You buy some stocks as an investment”

⁵ Simon answered, “Sir, we’ve worked hard over the last while and haven’t made anything. But because you say so, I will try again.”

⁶ When they had done so, they made a huge gain in stock value. There was so much gain that the bank was concerned others would get upset. ⁷ So they told the other investors there that day to come and help them. They made so much money that the bank got called by the trading commission who threatened to close down their access.

⁸ When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus’ knees. “Go away from me, Lord!” he said. “I am a sinful man!”

⁹ He and everyone with him were amazed at the wealth they had accumulated. ¹⁰ So were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, who worked with Simon.

Then Jesus said to Simon, “Don’t be afraid. From now on you will invest in people.”

¹¹ So they left their limo’s, their houses, the bank and followed Jesus [*NOT* Luke 5]

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Were the fishermen listening to Jesus, initially?

What was the focus of their attention?

Did they change the focus of attention at Jesus request?

How’d you think they felt about loosing out on fishing?

What did they gain?

CEPHAS AND JESUS

Where were we when we heard about Jesus, initially?

How do we hear about Jesus now days?

What level of interest do we often have?

What is really the focus of our attention?

Should it be?

Did we change the focus of our attention at Jesus request?

What happens if he seems to want us to do something different to what we expect?

How do we react and how should we react?

Do you think we could loose out on what we are doing if we follow Jesus requests?

What may we gain?