



Simon Peter

Transformed People: The Twelve Apostles
(B.L. Newberry, Spring 2020)

The Twelve as a Group (1 of 3)



Matt. 10:2-4	Mark 3:16-19	Luke 6:14-16	Acts 1:13
Peter Andrew James John	Peter James John Andrew	Peter Andrew James John	Peter James John Andrew
Philip Bartholomew Thomas Matthew	Philip Bartholomew Matthew Thomas	Philip Bartholomew Matthew Thomas	Philip Thomas Bartholomew Matthew
James (the less) Thaddeus Simon Judas Iscariot	James (the less) Thaddeus Simon Judas Iscariot	James (the less) Simon Thaddeus Judas Iscariot	James (the less) Simon Thaddeus

The gospels seem to indicate three groups within the twelve. These are in order of how intimate of a relationship they shared with Jesus.

Peter, James, and John form an even more intimate core.
Matt. 17:1, Mark 5:37, Mark 13:3, 14:33

The Twelve as a Group (2 of 3)



Matt. 10:2-4	Mark 3:16-19	Luke 6:14-16	Acts 1:13
Peter Andrew James John	Peter James John Andrew	Peter Andrew James John	Peter James John Andrew
Philip Bartholomew Thomas Matthew	Philip Bartholomew Matthew Thomas	Philip Bartholomew Matthew Thomas	Philip Thomas Bartholomew Matthew
James (the less) Thaddeus Simon Judas Iscariot	James (the less) Thaddeus Simon Judas Iscariot	James (the less) Simon Thaddeus Judas Iscariot	James (the less) Simon Thaddeus

Members of the second group are discussed less in scripture, but still appear in multiple stories.

The members of the third group are rarely mentioned, with the exception of the negative character, Judas Iscariot.

The Twelve as a Group (3 of 3)



Matt. 10:2-4	Mark 3:16-19	Luke 6:14-16	Acts 1:13
Peter Andrew James John	Peter James John Andrew	Peter Andrew James John	Peter James John Andrew
Philip Bartholomew Thomas Matthew	Philip Bartholomew Matthew Thomas	Philip Bartholomew Matthew Thomas	Philip Thomas Bartholomew Matthew
James (less) Thaddeus Simon Judas Iscariot	James (less) Thaddeus Simon Judas Iscariot	James (less) Simon Thaddeus Judas Iscariot	James (less) Simon Thaddeus

The first member of each group seems to be the leader consistently in the gospel accounts.

The overall leader of the group is consistently indicated to be Simon Peter. This is somewhat formally stated in [Matt. 10:2](#). “First” is the word *protos* (chief or leader) in the Greek.

Considering the Structure



Jesus Christ

Peter, James, John

Andrew

Philip, Bartholomew, Thomas,
Matthew

James (the less). Thaddeus, Simon,
Judas Iscariot

What can we potentially learn from the structure itself?

- It is difficult to maintain an intimate friendship even in a group as small as twelve.
- Absolute equity in relationships is likely never possible.

Introducing Simon Peter (1 of 3)

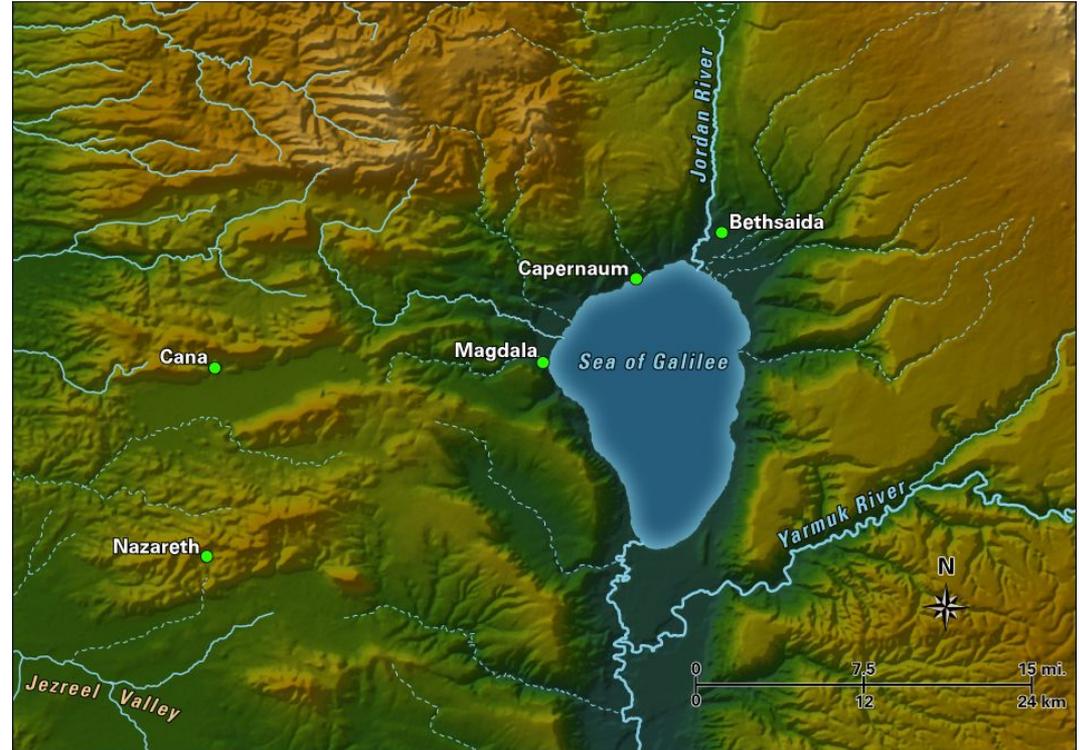


- Simon was a very common 1st Century name (two have it within the twelve)
- Simon father's name was John (also stated Jonas or Jonah) and in Matt. 16:17 Simon is called "Simon Bar-Jonah (son of Jonah). This is all we know of his parents.
- When he first meets Jesus, introduced by his brother Andrew, Jesus gives him a second name, Cephas (Aramaic) or Peter (Petros, or rock, in Greek). **Luke 6:14** makes in clear that this is not a replacement name, but an additional name. He will still be called by Simon, by Peter, and by Simon Peter
- Often, though perhaps not exclusively, Simon is used when referring to him generally or when He is in the wrong. Peter is often used in times of faith and strength.

Introducing Simon Peter (2 of 3)



- Simon, as well as his brother Andrew, had a fishing business centered in Capernaum. Capernaum was the largest town on the northern part of the Sea of Galilee.
- They originated from Bethsaida, but moved to the larger town (**Mark 1:29**).



Introducing Simon Peter (3 of 3)



- Simon was married. This is clear from both **Luke 4:38** and **1 Cor. 9:5**. We know nothing from scripture of his wife and possible children. The 1 Cor. 9:5 passage is especially interesting ...

Do we not have a right to take along a believing wife, even as the rest of the apostles and the brothers of the Lord and Cephas?

- Peter's name is in the Gospels more than any other, save Jesus Himself. Peter is spoke to by Jesus more than any other and he speaks to Jesus more than any other. He is also taken to task by Jesus more than any other and is the only one of the twelve to rebuke Christ (**Matt. 16:22**).

Peter as Leader

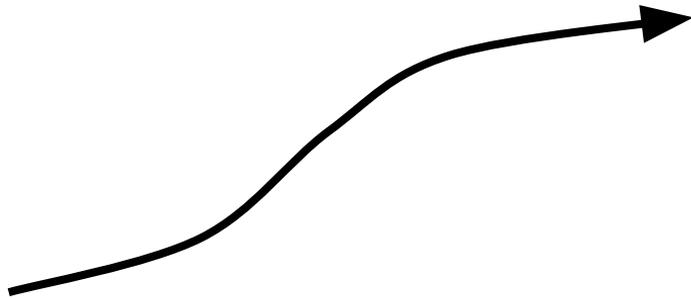


- Simon had the raw materials and attributes required for leadership:
 - Inquisitive ... always questioning (**Matt. 18:21ff**)
 - Initiative ... not scared to act (**Matt. 26:47ff**)
 - Involvement ... leads by doing (**Matt. 14:26ff, Luke 22:61ff**)
- Yet, he had to be shaped by experience to develop into a true leader
 - Understanding the value of failure
 - Understanding the value of submission

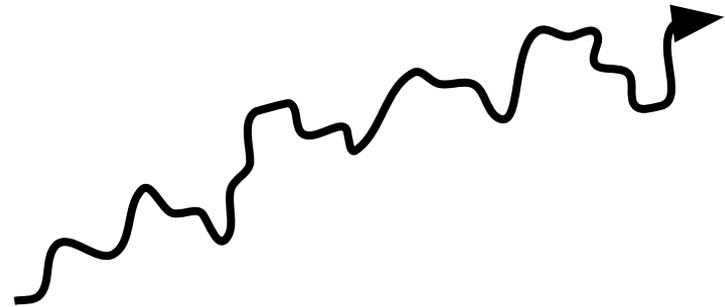
The Value of Failures & Setbacks



**The Way We Envision Our
Spiritual Transformation**



**What We See in Peter's
Spiritual Transformation**



What is the take away? Consider [Matt. 16:13-20](#) and [Matt. 16:21-23](#). How do these two events go together? What can we learn from this experience?

The Value of Submission (1 of 3)



- **Submission can seem counter to leadership, but in fact it is critical!**
- **Jesus, the ultimate leader, even learned submission.**
([Heb. 5:7-9](#), [Luke 22:41-43](#))
- **Simon learned this lesson, partially, through a rather unique story.**
([Matt. 17:24-27](#))
 - **The temple tax was required of all adults age 20 and older (not a Roman tax). The amount was two drachma (½ shekel).**
 - **Jesus says He (and the King's children) do not owe ([Mal. 3:1](#)).**
 - **Though sovereign and not obligated, He says to submit.**

The Value of Submission (2 of 3)



- **Simon learned the lesson much more fully in the upper room (John 13:1-17)**
 - **Simon initially refused ... Jesus can't submit, that would be wrong (vs. 8).**
 - **Failing to understand, Simon then jumps to conclusions (vs. 9).**
 - **The lesson ... vs 12-17. What is the application today?**
 - **What allowed Jesus to submit?**
 - **This is KEY! Do we know whom's we are? (John 13:3-4)**

The Value of Submission (3 of 3)



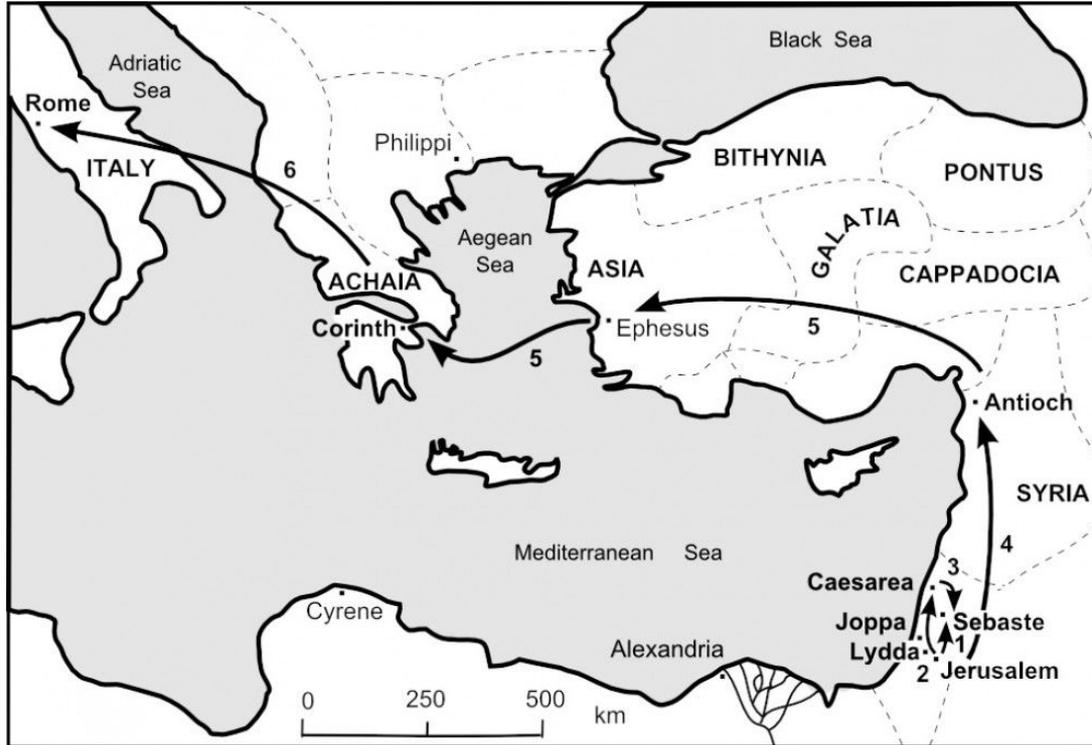
(1 Peter 2:13-17)

Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether to a king as the one in authority, or to governors as sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and the praise of those who do right. For such is the will of God that by doing right you may silence the ignorance of foolish men. Act as free men, and do not use your freedom as a covering for evil, but *use it* as bond slaves of God. Honor all people, love the brotherhood, fear God, honor the king.

(1 Peter 3:8-9)

To sum up, all of you be harmonious, sympathetic, brotherly, kind-hearted, and humble in spirit; not returning evil for evil or insult for insult, but giving a blessing instead; for you were called for the very purpose that you might inherit a blessing.

Simon Peter's Travels (1 of 3)

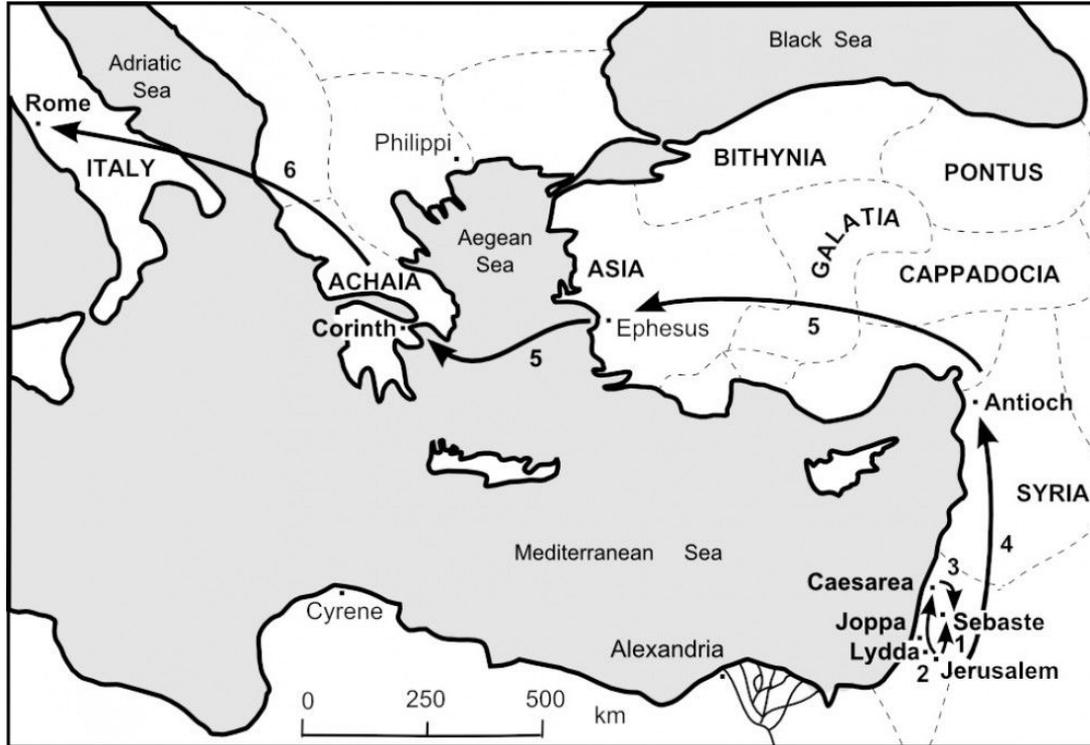


Acts 2:14-41 Peter spreads the Good News in Jerusalem on the Day of Pentecost in 30AD.

Acts 8:14-24 Peter and John go to Sebaste in Samaria in 35AD.

Acts 10:23-48 Peter travels to Caesarea towards the end of 35AD and shares the Good News of Jesus's death and resurrection with Cornelius.

Simon Peter's Travels (2 of 3)

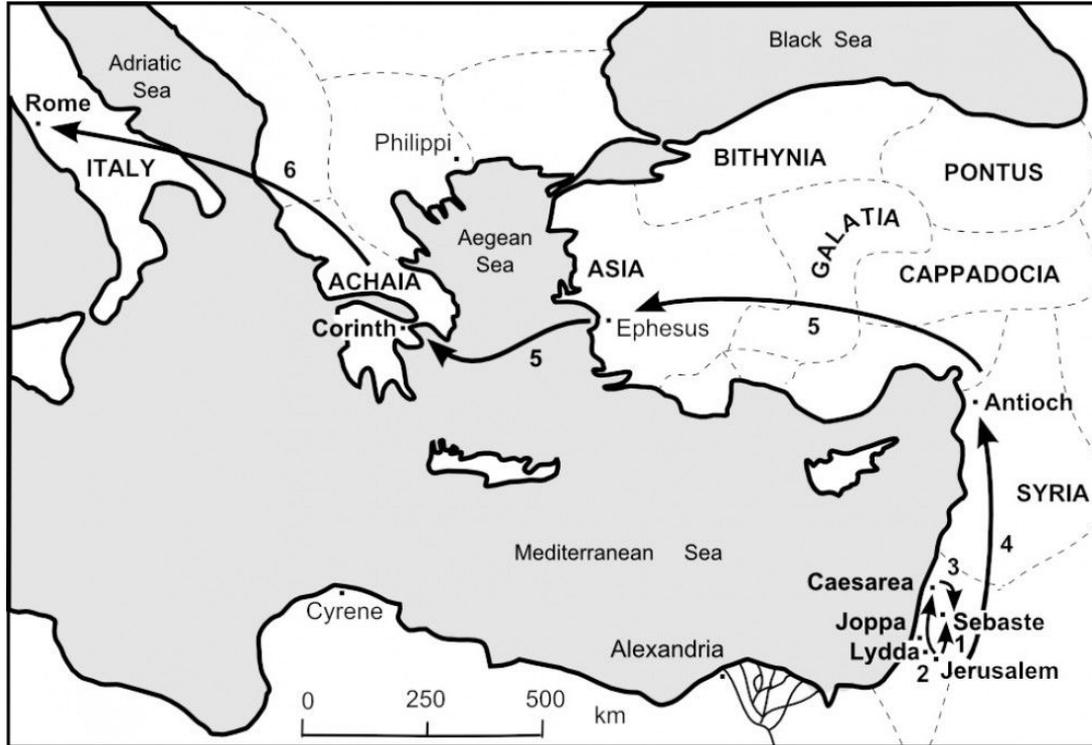


Acts 12:1-19 The narrative now skips a few years to 44AD. Peter is arrested in Jerusalem during the Passover festival on the orders of King Herod Agrippa I.

Acts 15:1-21 Peter addresses the assembly of believers in Jerusalem in 49/50AD.

Gal. 2:11-14 Peter meets Paul in Antioch in 50AD.

Simon Peter's Travels (3 of 3)



1 Cor. 1:12 When Paul writes to the Corinthian believers in 56AD. Peter may have escaped to Corinth around this time.

1 Pet. 1:1 In 66AD, Peter writes from Rome to the Jewish believers in the Roman provinces of Asia Minor.

2 Pet. 1:14-15 In 67AD, Peter writes again from Rome, where he has been imprisoned and is about to be executed.

Historical Teachings on Peter

(Red Border = Historical, not Biblical, source)



- Jesus hints at how Peter would die in **John 21:18-19**, "when you are old you will stretch out your hands, and another will dress you and carry you where you do not want to go."
- Historical writings claim Peter was crucified, by Nero, upside down in 64AD and 68AD.
- Some historical writers (later ... 3rd Century and beyond) speak of Peter's wife's martyrdom. Some even say they died at the same time (as a team). Other traditions also attribute children of faith to Peter. All these accounts are suspect, however.

Closing Discussion



- **What are some less-than-desirable qualities of Peter that you see in yourself? How does that realization make you feel or react?**
- **What are some virtues in Peter's life that you would like to further develop in your own life?**