



WELCOME

— THANK YOU FOR JOINING US —



THE MEN JESUS CHOSE



LESSONS FROM THE APOSTLES OF JESUS
WEDNESDAY 7 PM AUDITORIUM CLASS
(MARCH-MAY 2025)

The Men Jesus Chose

A classical painting of the Last Supper, showing Jesus seated at the center of a long table with twelve apostles. The scene is dimly lit, with a strong light source from the left, creating dramatic shadows. Jesus is wearing a blue robe over a pinkish-red tunic. The apostles are dressed in various colored robes, and their expressions and gestures are varied, capturing a moment of intense conversation.

Wednesdays @ 7 PM

Lesson 2—*Peter, the Fallible Leader*

The Disciples' Song

- Jesus called them one by one,
- Peter, Andrew, James and John,
- Next, came Philip, Thomas too,
- Matthew and Bartholomew.
- ***Chorus:*** Yes, Jesus called them,
- Yes, Jesus called them,
- Yes, Jesus called them,
- He called them one by one.
- James the one they called the less,
- Simon, also Thaddeus,
- Twelfth apostle Judas made,
- Jesus was by him betrayed.
- Matthias then took Judas' place,
- To preach to men of every race,
- Paul three preaching trips did make,
- And went to Rome for Jesus' sake.

Ice-Breaker Question

Can you think of any
hymns we sing about
Peter?



Peter's Presence

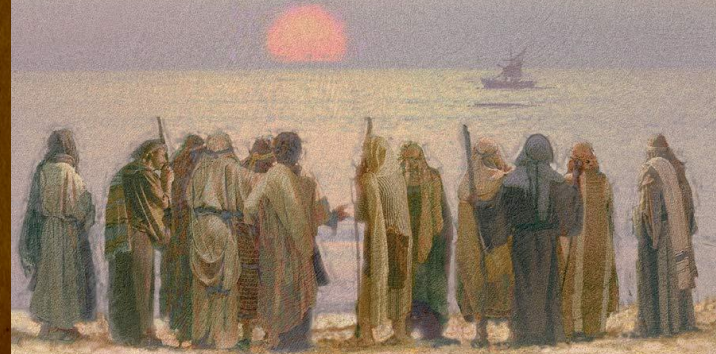
“Peter’s name is mentioned in the Gospels more than any other name except Jesus. No one speaks as often as Peter, and no one is spoken to by the Lord as often as Peter. No disciple is so frequently rebuked by the Lord as Peter; and no disciple ever rebukes the Lord except Peter (Matthew 16:22). No one else confessed Christ more boldly or acknowledged His lordship more explicitly; yet no other disciple ever verbally denied Christ as forcefully or as publicly as Peter did” (MacArthur, John. *Twelve Ordinary Men*, p. 39).

TWELVE ORDINARY MEN

HOW *the* MASTER

SHAPED HIS DISCIPLES *for* GREATNESS,

and WHAT HE WANTS *to* DO *with* YOU



JOHN MACARTHUR

Question 1

There are four lists of the twelve apostles in the New Testament (Matthew 10:2-4; Mark 3:16-19; Luke 6:13-16; Acts 1:13).

Who is always listed first?

What might this suggest about him?

Peter Is “First”

“...Matthew begins his list of the twelve with the words, ‘The first, Simon’ (Matt. 10:2). The word for first is protos.

Protos means first, but it also means chief; and it may well be that Matthew is not merely setting Peter’s name first in the list, but that he is saying that Peter was the leader of the apostolic band (Barclay, William. *The Master’s Men*, p. 19).

ABINGDON CLASSICS

The Master’s Men

Character Sketches of the Disciples



Ordinary People Made Great by the
Transforming Power of Christ

William Barclay

Question 2

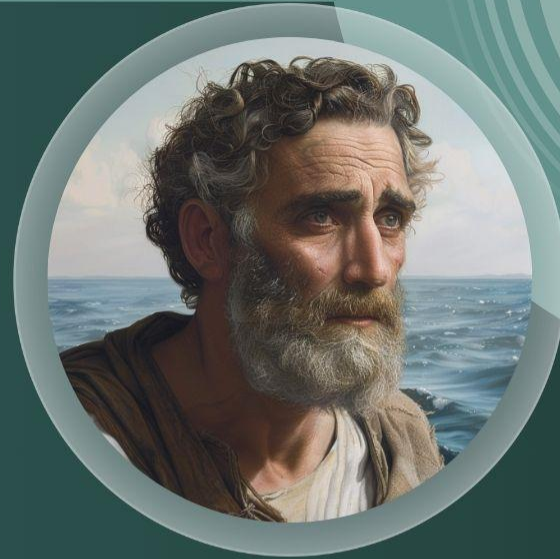
How common was the name “Simon” in the first century?

What “Simon’s” are mentioned in the New Testament?

- Matthew 10:2—Simon Peter
- Matthew 10:4—Simon the Zealot
- Matthew 13:55—Simon, the brother of Jesus
- John 6:71—Simon, the father of Judas Iscariot
- Matthew 26:6—Simon the leper
- Luke 7:36-40—Simon the Pharisee
- Matthew 27:32—Simon the Cyrene

THE APOSTLE SIMON PETER

I'm an outspoken, impetuous leader who likes to ask questions, is quick to make mistakes, but also willing to take correction and act boldly.



FAMILY HISTORY

- son of Jonah (Matt 16:17).
- brother of Andrew (John 1:40-42).
- married (Luke 4:38)
- hometown of Bethsaida (John 1:44).
- nickname: “Cephas” aka “Peter” meaning “a Stone”

KEY ROLES

- Fishermen (Mark 1:16)
- Uneducated (Acts 4:13)
- Apostle (Luke 6:13-14)
- Elder (1 Peter 5:1)
- Author (see 1-2 Peter)
- First sermon to Jews/Gentiles (Acts 2, 10)

Question 3

What was Simon's birth name (Matthew 16:17; John 21:15-17)?

How does Simon get the name "Peter" according to Luke 6:14?

What does this name mean?

What was its Aramaic equivalent (1 Corinthians 1:12; 3:22; 9:5; 15:5; Galatians 2:9)?

Simon's Nickname

“The nickname was significant, and the Lord had a specific reason for choosing it. By nature Simon was brash, vacillating, and undependable. He tended to make great promises he couldn't follow through with. He was one of those people who appears to lunge wholeheartedly into something but then bails out before finishing...

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Simon's Nickname

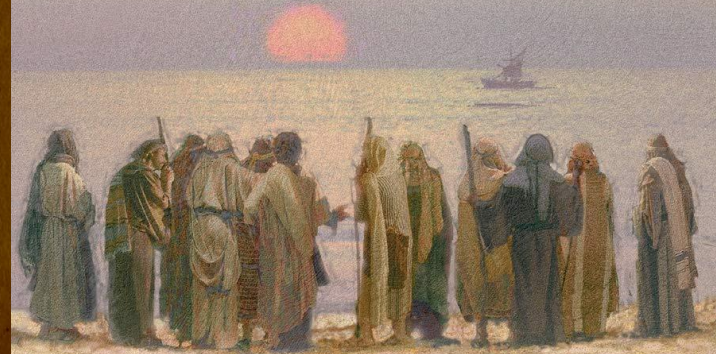
“...Jesus changed Simon's name, it appears, because He wanted the nickname to be a perpetual reminder to him about who he should be. And from that point on, whatever Jesus called him sent him a subtle message. If He called him Simon, he was signaling him that he was acting like his old self. If He called Him Rock, He was commending him for acting the way he ought to be acting” (MacArthur, John. *Twelve Ordinary Men*, p. 34).

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Question 4

Let's think a little about Peter's character. What does Peter say to Jesus when Jesus attempted to wash His feet (John 13:5-8)?

How does Jesus respond to Peter's words (John 13:8)?

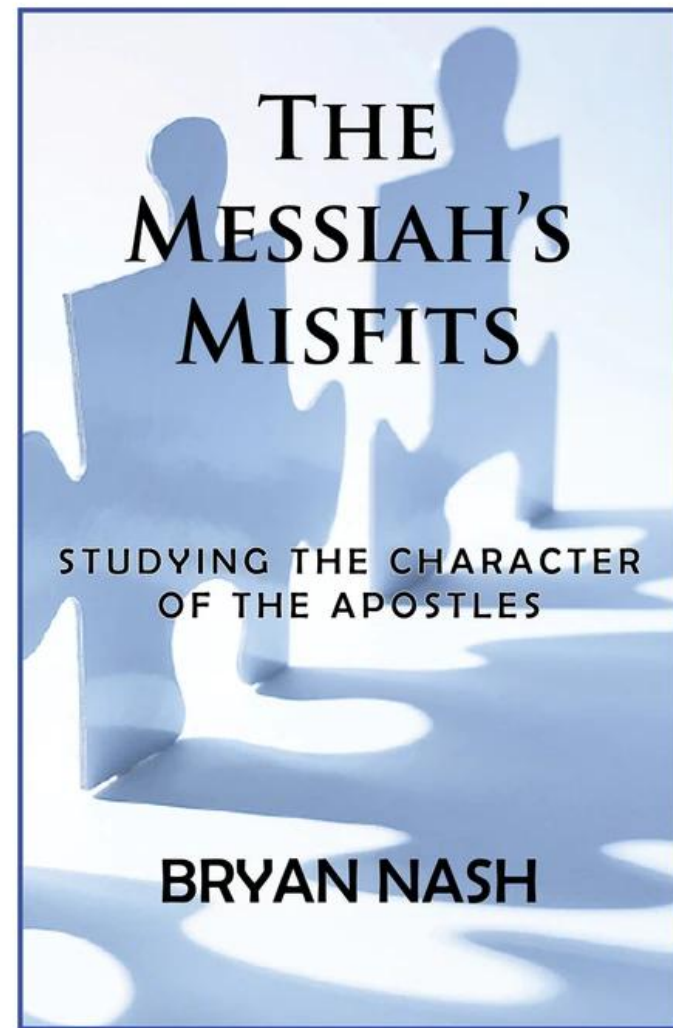
How does Peter respond to the rebuke of Jesus (John 13:9)?

What does this say about Peter and how is this trait a valuable quality in a leader?

What is the opposite of this trait?

Peter: Willing to Be Corrected

“...Peter stuck his foot in his mouth quite often, but when he realized he was wrong he embraced change...As Christians, change is not optional. We are to be transformed (Romans 12:2). We are given a new name in Christ, and we must not bring reproach upon that name (Colossians 3:17)” (Nash, Bryan. *Messiah’s Misfits*, p. 10).



Question 5

Let's think a little about Peter's character. Peter asked more questions in the New Testament than any other disciple (cp. Matthew 15:15; 18:21; 19:27; Mark 11:21; Luke 12:41; John 21:20-22). How would we describe a person who asks many questions? How is this a key quality of leadership?

Peter: Willing to Ask

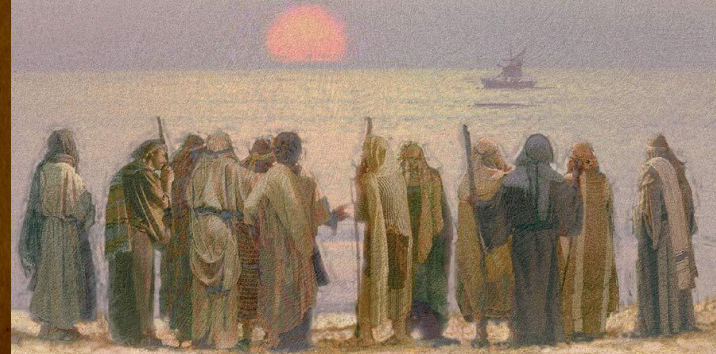
“When you’re looking for a leader, you want someone who asks lots of questions. People who are not inquisitive simply don’t make good leaders. Curiosity is crucial to leadership. People who are content with what they don’t know, happy to remain ignorant about what they don’t understand, complacent about what they haven’t analyzed, and comfortable living with problems they haven’t solved—such people cannot lead...

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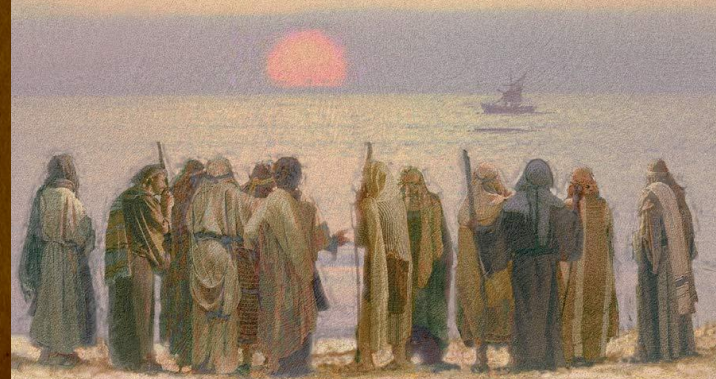
JOHN MACARTHUR

Peter: Willing to Ask

“Leaders need to have an insatiable curiosity. They need to be people who are hungry to find answers. Knowledge is power. Whoever has the information has the lead. If you want to find a leader, look for someone who is asking the right questions and genuinely looking for answers ” (MacArthur, John. *Twelve Ordinary Men*, p. 40).

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Question 6

Let's think a little about Peter's character.

What do we learn about Peter by seeing how and when he answered the questions of Jesus in the following passages (Matthew 16:13-16; John 6:67-69)?

How is his example a good quality of leadership?

Peter: Willing to Answer

“Peter boldly spoke out above the rest: ‘*You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God*’ (Matthew 16:16). The other disciples were still processing the question, like schoolboys afraid to speak up lest they give the wrong answer. Peter was bold and decisive. That’s a vital characteristic of all great leaders. Sometimes he had to take a step back, undo, retract, or be rebuked. But the fact that he was always willing to grab opportunity by the throat marked him as a natural leader” (MacArthur, John. *Twelve Ordinary Men*, p. 40).

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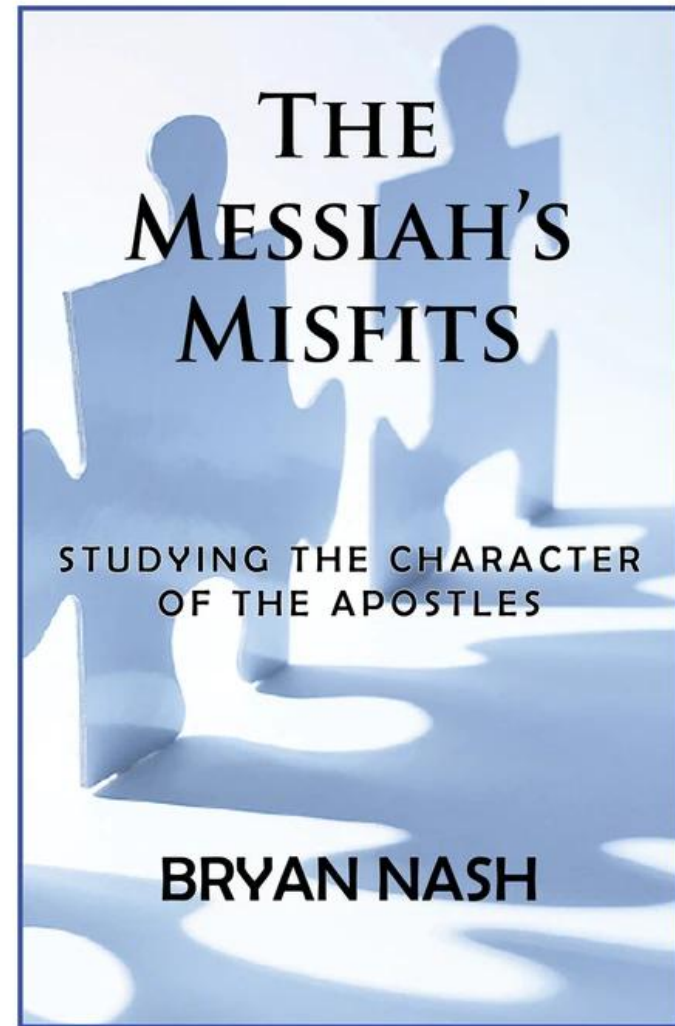
Question 7

Let's think a little about Peter's character. Read the following passages below about Peter and consider what these passages tell us about him.

- Matthew 14:27-29—
- John 18:3, 10—
- Acts 2:12-14—
- Acts 4:18-10—

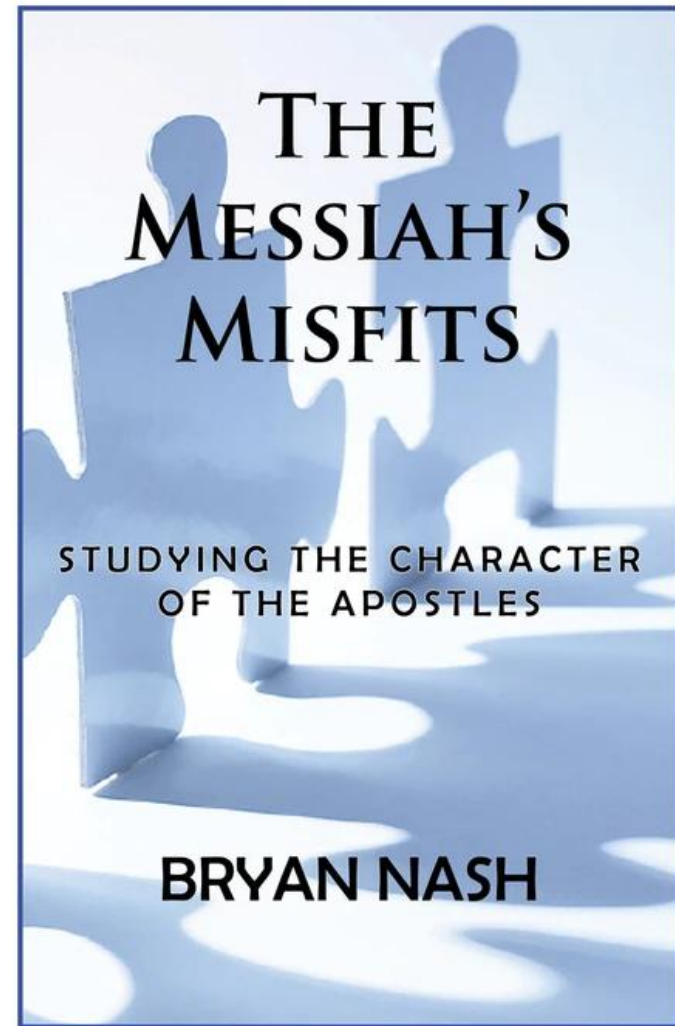
Courageous Peter

“...Peter walked on the water to Jesus. He became afraid and fell, but he did get out of the boat. Most are content to just stay in the boat. In John 18, Peter is ready to take on a gang of soldiers for Christ...Peter’s courage continues in the book of Acts. He defends the apostles in Acts 2:12-14...



Courageous Peter

“He refused to keep his mouth shut in Acts 4:18-20...Someone once wisely said, ‘A ship is safe in harbor, but that’s not what ships are for.’ Some Christians want to stay in the harbor. The problem is, we have not been commanded to stay in the harbor. We have been commanded to take the word to the world” (Nash, Bryan. *Messiah’s Misfits*, p. 12).



Question 8

Let's think a little about Peter's character. Was Peter a perfect man?

What were some of the negative things said or noted about him in the following passages (Matthew 16:23; Mark 14:37; Galatians 2:11-14)?

What do the Proverbs say about rebuke (Proverbs 9:8; 15:5; 17:10)?

Peter's Courage

“...in the courtyard of the high priest's house Peter's Galilean accent betrayed him, and, when he was challenged with his association with Jesus, he denied that he had ever known him (Mark 14:66-72; Matt. 26:69-75; Luke 22:54-62; John 18:15-27)...

ABINGDON CLASSICS

The Master's Men

Character Sketches of the Disciples



Ordinary People Made Great by the
Transforming Power of Christ

William Barclay

Peter's Courage

“It is easy to condemn Peter, but the fact is that Peter was in the courtyard of the high priest's house when the other disciples had melted terror-stricken into shadows and fled (Matt. 26:56; Mark 14:50). Peter's failure was the kind of failure that could have happened only to a brave man. He alone was in a position to fail; the others had fled long ago (Barclay, William. *The Master's Men*, p. 23).

The Master's Men

Character Sketches of the Disciples



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Question 9

Although Peter had his flaws, what do we learn about his role in the local church later in life?

Besides an apostle, what other office does he fill (1 Peter 5:1)?

What lesson can this teach us?

Peter Was Shaped by Jesus

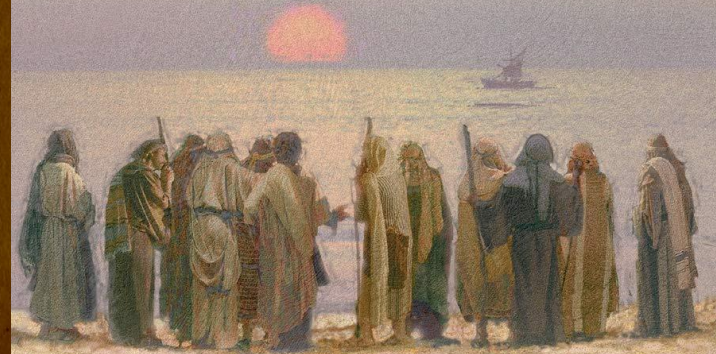
“...Character...is absolutely critical in leadership...character is what makes leadership possible. People simply cannot respect or trust those who lack character. And if they do not respect a man, they will not follow him...Leaders without character eventually disappoint their followers and lose their confidence...

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Peter Was Shaped by Jesus

...Christ Himself is the epitome of what a true leader ought to look like...in spiritual leadership, the great goal and objective is to bring people to Christlikeness

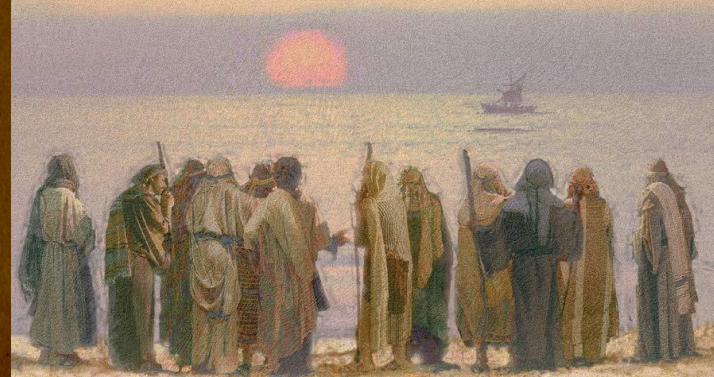
...Peter...was molded and shaped after the example he had witnessed in Christ. It was the character qualities Peter developed through his intimate association with Christ that ultimately made him the great leader he became” (MacArthur, John. *Twelve Ordinary Men*, p. 46-47).

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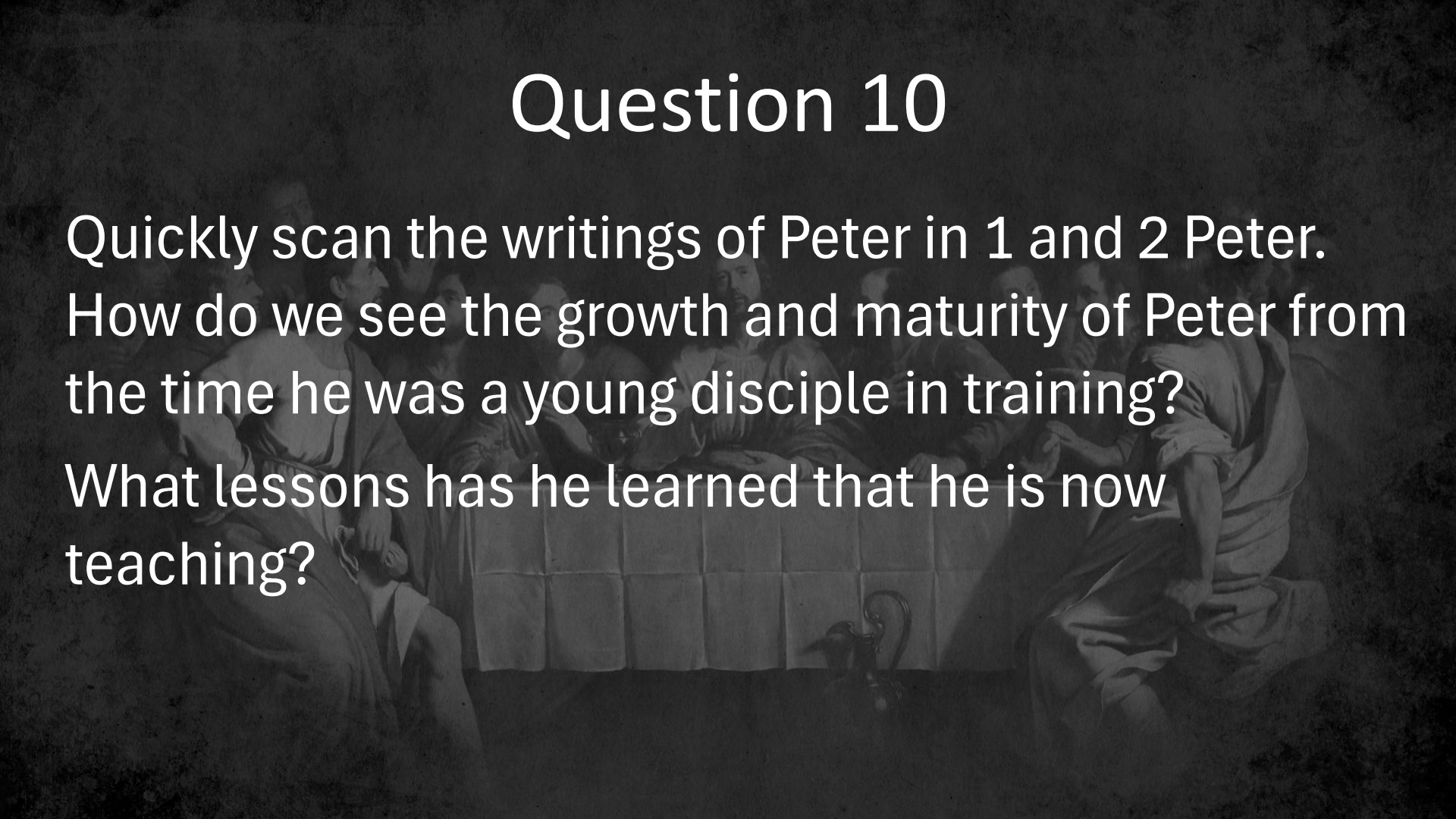
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Question 10

Quickly scan the writings of Peter in 1 and 2 Peter. How do we see the growth and maturity of Peter from the time he was a young disciple in training? What lessons has he learned that he is now teaching?



The Men Jesus Chose

The background of the slide is a reproduction of Leonardo da Vinci's 'The Last Supper'. It depicts Jesus seated at the center of a long table, surrounded by his twelve apostles. The scene is set in a room with a dark, textured background. Jesus is wearing a blue robe over a pinkish-red tunic. The apostles are shown in various states of shock and confusion, with some pointing and others gesturing. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting the figures against the dark background.

**Next week: Lesson 3—*Andrew,
the Man in the Shadows***



GOODBYE

— HAVE A WONDERFUL WEEK —

