



International Bible Lesson

International Bible Study Commentary

L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.

Jesus Will Complete His Plan for Us

John 1:35-42

And he [Andrew] brought him to Jesus. And when Jesus beheld him, he said, Thou art Simon the son of Jona: thou shalt be called Cephas, which is by interpretation, A stone. (John 1:42—KJV)

He [Andrew] brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, "You are Simon the son of John; you shall be called Cephas" (which is translated Peter). (John 142—NASB)

He [Andrew] brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas" (which is translated Peter). (John 1:42—NRSV)

Simon Peter has the reputation for being impetuous, courageous or cowardly at times, and a tempter to turn Jesus from His mission. When Jesus first met Simon, Jesus saw Simon as the person Simon would eventually become as one of His disciples. Therefore, Jesus called Simon "Cephas," which means "Peter," and is interpreted as "Stone" or "Rock." After Peter was the first disciple to tell Jesus, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God," Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven" (Matthew 16:16-17). Peter's confession of Jesus as the Son of the living God became the foundation upon which Jesus the Messiah would build His Church. But then, on the very night Jesus was betrayed and arrested, three times Peter denied he knew Jesus. Still, Jesus saw Peter for the person Peter would become after He completed His work in him. So, Jesus forgave Peter and told him, "Feed me sheep" (John 21:17). Then, on the Day of Pentecost, Jesus filled Peter and the other disciples with the Holy Spirit and Peter began to be one of Jesus' most faithful witnesses whether before large crowds, or

on trial before religious authorities, or chained in prisons. When Jesus calls us to follow Him, Jesus sees us for the person He will eventually make us after He forgives us, makes us clean, and fills us with His Spirit. Believers should never give up hope in Jesus, for Jesus is not yet finished with us or others.

Thinking Further

1. Why do you think John emphasized to his disciples that Jesus is the Lamb of God?
2. Do you think people need the Lamb of God today? Why or why not?
3. When you come to Jesus, what are you looking for? Think of three things you would like to have from Jesus.
4. To be disciples of Jesus, what do people need to do?
5. Jesus changed Simon into Peter, the "rock." What are three ways Jesus can change His disciples today?

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