

IN THE BOAT

When Jesus borrowed Peter's boat to preach to the crowd, Peter was in the boat.

- ◆ Peter became **INTERESTED** in what Jesus had to say. "Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch" (Luke 5:4b). "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'" (Luke 5:5).
- ◆ All were astonished by the catch of fish and Peter was **INSPIRED** to follow Jesus. "Then Jesus said to Simon (Peter), 'Don't be afraid; from now on you will fish for people'" (Luke 5:10).
- ◆ So Peter got **INVOLVED** and as he learned to follow Jesus, he watched with amazement while Jesus healed the sick and calmed the storms of life: So, the disciples got into a boat with Jesus and set out for the other side of the lake, a storm came and they felt they were in great danger. Jesus stopped the wind and the raging waters; the storm stopped, and all was calm (Luke 8:23-24).
- ◆ Peter's amazement turned to **TRUST**: Jesus came walking on the water. "'Lord, if it's you,' Peter replied, 'tell me to come to you on the water.' 'Come,' he (Jesus) said" (Matthew 14:28-29).
- ◆ **TRUST** grew to **REVELATION** and to Peter's confession of Christ: "'But what about you?' he (Jesus) asked, 'Who do you say I am?'" (Matthew 16:15).
- ◆ Peter realized he was **IN THE PRESENCE** of God. "Simon Peter answered, 'You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God'" (Matthew 16:16).



Jonah was in a boat, too. He was using it to flee from the Lord. He was **NOT INTERESTED** in doing what God had asked of him. So, instead of being **IN THE BOAT**, he ended up **IN THE WATER**, and **IN THE FISH**.

Interestingly enough, Jesus used the "Sign of Jonah," 3 days and 3 nights in the belly of the fish, to describe his death, 3 days and 3 nights in the heart of the earth^(Matthew 12:39).

Here is a bit of trivia: In Matthew 16:17 Jesus calls Peter, "Simon son of Jonah." Other times He calls him, "Simon son of John." The name Jonah means **DOVE**. That reminds me of another **BOAT** story: Noah and the Flood. "Then he sent out a **DOVE** to see if the water had receded..." (Gen 8:8) "...there in its beak was a freshly plucked olive leaf!..." (Gen 8:11). – **PEACE**

When Jesus was arrested, Peter was afraid and he denied the Lord. "'You are not one of this man's disciples too, are you?'...He replied, 'I am not'"^(John 18:17, 25-27). But, after His resurrection, Jesus reinstated Peter: "Again Jesus said, 'Simon son of John, do you love me?'"^(John 21:16a). And Peter went from **LOVE** to total **INVESTMENT** "...Feed my sheep"^(John 21:17).

God gave Jonah a second chance, too, to prophesy; for the Lord wants the whole world to hear the message of his grace.

Dear Lord, thank you for allowing us to be in Your Presence. May our words and actions show our love for You. In Jesus' name – Amen.

I WILL MAKE YOU FISHERS OF MEN

by Harry D. Clarke

I will make you fishers of men,
Fishers of men, fishers of men,
I will make you fishers of men
If you follow Me;
If you follow Me,
If you follow Me,
I will make you fishers of men
If you follow Me.

Hear Christ calling, Come unto Me,
Come unto Me, Come unto Me;
Hear Christ calling, Come unto Me,
I will give you rest;
I will give you rest,
I will give you rest;
Hear Christ calling, Come unto Me,
I will give you rest.