

A NEW NAME (JOHN 1:35-42)

INTRODUCTION.

THE CHARM OF SIMON PETER'S IMPULSIVE PERSONALITY.

THE MOST HUMAN OF ALL THE APOSTLES.

I. HIS THREE CALLS BY THE LORD JESUS

1. Jn. 1:42, CALL TO DISCIPLESHIP

2. Mk. 1:16-20, CALL TO COMPANIONSHIP,

TO CONTINUOUS FOLLOWING OF CHRIST

3. Mk. 3:13-19, TO FORMAL APOSTLESHIP

II. BROUGHT TO CHRIST BY HIS BROTHER ANDREW

A. ANDREW WAS A DISCIPLE OF JOHN THE BAPTIST

1. HE WAS ONE OF THE TWO DISCIPLES OF THE BAPTIST (THE OTHER WAS JOHN THE BELOVED) WHO HEARD JOHN THE BAPTIST BEAR WITNESS TO JESUS AS THE LAMB OF GOD, (Jn. 1:35)

2. THEY FOLLOWED JESUS AND VISITED HIM.

A. THEY NEVER FORGOT THAT BLESSED DAY OF FELLOWSHIP

BY THE SIDE OF JESUS.

B. THEY WANTED TO FIND OUT FOR SURE IF WHAT JOHN THE BAPTIST HAD SAID WAS TRUE.

C. THE TRUE TEST IS PERSONAL EXPERIENCE - "COME AND SEE"

B. ANDREW COULD NOT KEEP THIS GREAT DISCOVERY TO HIMSELF.

1. WHAT ANDREW MIGHT HAVE DONE.

A. DREAMED ABOUT IT

B. DISPUTED ABOUT IT

C. CONSULTED THE RABBIS IN JERUSALEM

D. TOLD JOHN HE WAS RIGHT

E. COMPLETED ALL PERSONAL AND BUSINESS MATTERS,

THEN CASUALLY MENTIONED THE MESSIAH TO SOMEONE SOMEWHERE IF AND WHEN A CONVENIENT OPPORTUNITY SHOULD PRESENT ITSELF

2. WHAT HE DID WAS THE VERY FIRST THING TO FIND HIS BROTHER SIMON WITNESS TO HIM, AND BRING HIM TO JESUS.

A. WITNESSING IN OUR OWN FAMILY

B. EUREKA - "I HAVE FOUND IT, OR HIM - THE GREAT DISCOVERY, v. 41

III. A NEW NAME FOR SIMON

A. THE LORD'S LOOK OF LOVE, v. 42

1. IT WAS AN EAGER AND PENETRATING LOOK,

A SEARCHING LOOK THROUGH AND THROUGH

2. LIKE THAT RAPTURED GAZE OF JOHN THE BAPTIST AT JESUS

IN v. 36.

3. LIKE THE LOOK JESUS GAVE THE RICH YOUNG RULER (Mk. 10:21) WHEN HE LOVED HIM AT FIRST SIGHT.

4. LIKE THE SORROWING LOOK THAT JESUS GAVE SIMON (IN Lk. 22:61) AFTER HIS THREE DENIALS.

5. THE LOOK HERE REVEALED THE POSSIBILITIES OF USEFULNESS FOR THE KINGDOM OF GOD WRAPPED UP IN SIMON.

B. JESUS EVIDENTLY ACCEPTS SIMON AS A DISCIPLE ON THE SAME TERMS AS ANDREW - THAT IS, CONFESSION OF THE MESSIAHSHIP OF JESUS.

C. THE OLD NAME SIMON

1. NAME OF THE SECOND SON OF JACOB AND LEAH (Gen. 29:33).

THE ROOT MEANING OF THE HEB. WORD FOR SIMEON MEANS "HEARING"

LEAH SAID, "BECAUSE THE LORD HAS HEARD THAT I WAS SLIGHTED

HE HAS GIVEN ME THIS SON ALSO."

2. THE OLD NAME SIMEON MIGHT HAVE BEEN A RECOGNITION OF GOD'S ANSWER TO PRAYER FOR JUSTICE, BUT IT WAS HERE IDENTIFIED WITH A CHARACTER FULL OF IMPULSIVENESS, WHICH MIGHT BRING MORE HARM THAN GOOD TO THE KINGDOM OF GOD.

3. SIMON WAS A MAN PERPETUALLY IN TROUBLE;
INTELLECTUAL, YET FOREVER BLINDLY BLUNDERING;
HURTING HIS FRIENDS BY HIS IMPULSIVENESS;
ALWAYS MAKING QUICK, STRONG DECISIONS,
YET ALWAYS VASCILATING AND NEVER ARRIVING;
WITH ALL THE ESSENTIAL THINGS OF HUMAN NATURE AT THEIR
HIGHEST AND BEST,

BUT FALLING, BLUNDERING, FAILING DAY BY DAY.

4. JUST AS SIMON NEEDED NOT ONLY A NEW NAME BUT A NEW NATURE,
SO OUR OLD NATURE NEEDS A RADICAL CHANGE BEFORE WE CAN
BE OF SERVICE TO GOD.

5. JESUS CAN READ YOUR TRUE CHARACTER AS NO ONE ELSE CAN.
A. HE READ NATHANAEL'S (JN. 1:47)
B. HE HAD NO NEED THAT ANYONE SHOULD BEAR WITNESS CONCERNING MAN,
FOR HE HIMSELF KNEW WHAT WAS IN MAN. (JN. 2:25)

D. BUT JESUS SAW NOT MERELY SIMON'S WEAKNESS;
HE SAW ALSO THE POSSIBILITIES OF STRENGTH.

1. CHRIST CALLS NOT MANY THAT ARE MIGHTY, WISE, OR NOBLE.

2. HE CALLS NO ONE BECAUSE OF HIS PERFECTIONS OR ACHIEVEMENTS.

3. HE CALLS YOU NOT BECAUSE OF WHAT YOU ARE, BUT BECAUSE OF
WHAT YOU CAN BECOME.

4. HE CALLS YOU NOT BECAUSE OF WHAT YOU HAVE DONE, BUT
BECAUSE OF WHAT, THROUGH HIS GRACE, YOU MIGHT DO.

5. CHRIST SEES A SAINT IN THE ROUGH,
WEAK AS LITTLE GRAINS OF SHIFTING SAND,
AND FORETELLS THE DAY WHEN HE SHALL BE LIKE
THE ROCK OF GIBRALTAR OR STONE MOUNTAIN.

E. "CEPHAS" IS THE TRANSLITERATION OF THE ARAMAIC "KIPHO", = "ROCK"

1. THE GREEK "PETROS" = "A DETACHED FRAGMENT OF ROCK."

2. THE GREEK "PETRA" MEANS "A MASSIVE LEDGE OR MOUNTAIN OF ROCK"

F. THE SIGNIFICANCE OF A NEW NAME IN THE BIBLE

1. OFTEN INDICATED THE BEGINNING OF A NEW RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD.
AS IN THE CASE OF JACOB OR ABRAHAM.

2. REV. 2:17, "TO HIM THAT OVERCOMETH WILL I GIVE A WHITE STONE,
AND IN THE STONE A NEW NAME WRITTEN, WHICH NO MAN KNOWETH
SAVING HE THAT RECEIVETH IT."

G. THE FORMATION OF THE ROCK.

1. ROCKS ARE MADE BY

A. HEAT AND PRESSURE

B. UPHEAVAL, (SIFTED LIKE WHEAT, LK. 22:31)

C. EROSION, LAYING BARE THE COVERING ON THE SURFACE.

2. THE ROCK HE CAME TO BE.

A. A POWERFUL WITNESS IN THE BOOK OF ACTS.

B. A PILLAR IN THE TEMPLE OF CHRIST, GAL. 2:9

C. INTERPRETER OF CHRIST THE CHIEF CORNERSTONE IN ATTITUDE
OF PERSECUTION, II PETER 2:4-8.

3. THE MAKER OF THE ROCK - THE LORD JESUS

A. HIS INFINITE PATIENCE

B. HIS POWERFUL PRAYERS

C. HIS GRACE, MERCY, FORGIVENESS, AND EVER-SEEKING LOVE.

D. REMINDING US FOREVER WHAT GREAT THINGS JESUS CAN DO
WITH SUCH FRAIL MATERIAL.

CONCLUSION; WHAT DID PETER SAY, WHEN THE LORD JESUS TOLD HIM
HE WOULD BE CALLED A ROCK? HOW DID HE ANSWER? AS FAR AS THE RECORD
REVEALS, PETER NEVER SAID ONE SINGLE WORD THAT DAY. WE WHO KNOW
HIS IMPETUOUSNESS ARE VERY SURPRISED AT THAT FACT. WHY DIDN'T HE
ANSWER? BECAUSE HE WAS NEVER SO SURPRISED IN ALL HIS LIFE AS AT
THAT MOMENT. HE KNEW THAT HE WAS ANYTHING BUT A ROCK. HE WAS SO
STARTLED HE HAD NOTHING TO SAY. HE FOUND IN CHRIST THE MASTER PRIN-
CIPLE TO DOMINATE AND SUBDUCE HIS WHOLE LIFE. (H.M. 1/29/56)