

Peter

“Follow me, Peter, and I will make you a fisher of men.”

Those words, even though I didn't totally understand them, made me feel my life had meaning. This man Jesus, who I truly believe is the Messiah, called me, a normal fisherman, to be part of his team. It was exciting!

And believe me, there was never a dull moment. There were times I longed for a dull moment away from the crowds, but even when we finally had some peace sleeping in the boat, a storm would hit.

Jesus gave me a life I never dreamed of. But I am weak. I fail. I stick my foot in my mouth more than any human being should!

His last days on earth, I was in rare form. So proud. So sure of myself. So foolish. He knew what was ahead for all of us. I was so sure of my calling, I stated that I would follow Jesus anywhere, even into death. He told me I would deny Him three times that night before the rooster crowed at dawn. And He was so right. Once He was arrested, fear overtook any pride and self-sufficiency I felt. I was weak, afraid, and foolish.

Three times, I denied Him. After His resurrection, three times He asked me, “Peter, do you love me?” Three times I answered yes, but I knew I didn't love Him as I should. And He told me to feed His sheep. The third time, my heart broke. I had finally reached the end of myself, my plans, my pride. I saw the love He had for me and for all of mankind, and He was asking me to help build His kingdom, to help feed His sheep. He entrusted them to me. But how could I? My weaknesses were lying bare before all to see. I was no “ROCK”...I wasn't sure I was even a pebble except maybe one in Jesus' sandal that caused Him pain.

But just as Jesus always did, He saw what we didn't. After He left us to return to His Father in heaven, He sent His Spirit to us. His Spirit lives in each of us who are His followers. And His Spirit not only gives me hope, but boldness to share God's love and truth with everyone I meet! And His Spirit gives me wisdom, so maybe I won't put my foot in my mouth quite as often. 😊

He fulfilled His calling and purpose in my life, and I am so thankful and humbled that He chose me. He saw things in me that I did not see in myself, and He has made me the man who could truly be a fisher of men.