

Simon Peter

Scene 1: The Meeting

Simon sits centrally, clearly angry and frustrated.

Simon: Not one fish! All I want is one fish for the family, a couple more to sell – is that too much to ask? What have I got? Nothing! A whole night in the bay, and nothing to show.

Disturbance.

Simon: Oh no, another prophet, another hoax. Stop telling stories and do some work! Don't trust any man who doesn't understand work. Or fish.

Jesus appears to the side, perhaps raised. (pulpit?)

Jesus: You there! In the boat! Have you caught anything?

Simon: Great, a wiseguy. Like I need this - **No, nothing Sir**

Jesus: Throw your nets on the other side.

Simon: Stupid man, you don't catch fish in the day. Wants to make a fool of me in front of all these people. Well, why should I do what he says?

Jesus: Throw out your nets!

Simon: *sighs* Stupid. **Fine, fine, whatever.**

Freeze

Narrator: When we first meet with God, many of us don't recognise what we're seeing. Sometimes we're afraid, or maybe just stubborn. We're quite happy with things the way they are, thank you very much. We don't need God. But God has other ideas.

Unfreeze

Simon: Thousands of fish! I've never seen so many. How...why...none of it makes sense!

Jesus: Come follow me, Simon, I need fishers of men.

Simon: **But Sir! I can't do that. I know fish, just fish. The Law...well, it's a little shaky, Sir.**

Jesus: That it is. But, trust me, Simon – your fish are a lot like men. They hide in dark places, they stay where they know, and they will be difficult to bring into God's boat. You will be my fisher, Simon. I know you can do it.

Freeze.

Narrator: Jesus found Simon on the shore, just living his life. Simon thought he didn't need anyone, but Jesus offered him a chance to change, to follow and to help others do the same. Simon was a little reluctant, but he followed. He didn't know where he was going, but he followed. And he didn't know where it would end – but he followed.

Scene 2: The Storm

Simon and two disciples kneel to stage right, distressed.

Simon: We're going to die! I've never seen a storm like this. Where is the Lord, where is he? He said he would follow, but I cannot see him on the shore. It's too dark, far too dark!

Freeze.

Narrator: Simon found himself in a bad place – a fishing boat caught in a storm, no hope in sight. He'd even lost sight of Jesus, and even though he knew the Lord should be there, he couldn't find Him. Sometimes our lives can be very similar, caught in a dark moment, unable to find God anywhere. Yet we can always count on being found.

Unfreeze. Jesus appears to stage left.

Jesus: Simon! Simon, I am here!

Simon: *afraid* **What are you? You're a spirit, a ghost!**

Jesus: Do not be afraid, Simon. It is I. I am here.

Simon: *cautiously* **Lord, if it is indeed you and I am not mad, tell me to walk on the water to you. I promised to follow, Lord.**

Jesus: Walk to me, Simon.

Disciple1: Simon! Don't be a fool, look at the water!

Disciple 2: You'll drown, Simon, don't do it!

Simon ignores them and stands, walking slowly towards Jesus. Freeze.

Narrator: From darkness comes light. Simon trusted in the Lord, knew his Saviour would come and find him, leading him from danger. If we do the same, we have the same hope of safety, despite what others might say about the way of God. We know our place in the kingdom; sometimes we just need a little courage to refind it.

Unfreeze. Simon looks around, frightened, and sinks to his knees.

Simon: **Lord, the winds are too strong, I will drown. Lord, save me!**

Jesus steps forward and takes Simon's hand, pulling him back to a stand.

Jesus: Oh Simon, why did you doubt? Why did your strength falter when you had already come so far?

Simon: **Truly, Lord? I do not know. I was just...afraid.**

Freeze.

Narrator: When the Lord calls us to follow, the act of courage does not lie in taking the first step but throughout the journey. Simon let his eyes fall from the Lord, and he began to sink in stormy waters. When we fall, Jesus lifts us back up, just as He did for Simon, and we continue on our path, walking with God.

Scene 3: The Confession.

Jesus stands, raised. (pulpit?). Simon sits centrally, and other disciples stand around.

Jesus: So, you've been talking to the people. Who do they say the Son of Man is?

Muttering and whispering from disciples.

Disciple: Well, Lord, some say...Elijah?

Simon: No, that isn't...

Disciple: And others – they say John the Baptist!

Simon: That can't be...

Disciple: I've heard the name of Jeremiah. That's a popular one.

Simon: No, you've got it all...

Disciple: Or King David!

Simon: No, it's...

Disciple: Oh, maybe Isaiah!

Simon: *stands* **You are the Christ!**

Silence.

Jesus: Bless you, Simon, for God has revealed this to you. And I tell you now, you are Peter, the rock upon which I will build my church and against which the forces of Hell will never triumph.

Simon: **Me? Oh no, Lord, don't be silly! I can't be the one; I'm not good enough for that. Just a simple man, Lord, I can't have that responsibility. It would all go wrong, everything would fall apart.**

Choose Andrew! Yes, he's been faithful to you; he's a strong man. You could do much work with him, Lord.

Or John! Now, he understands people. Good with words too, he'd give great speeches and persuade people. Me, I couldn't do that.

Oh – Judas! Or Matthew, they're good with money. Help the poor, make sure it all worked out; I'm sure they'd see the kingdom right.

Just...not me, Lord. Anyone but me. I'll only let you down.

Stony Ground.

Scene 4: The Denial

Simon paces in front of a gathering of three or more people. Fire?

Simon: I could take up my sword again, yes, that would work. Gather the others, and we could storm that place, yes, the Lord would forgive us. I have to help him, I can't let him down...

One stands and moves forward, touching his shoulder.

Extra1: Hey, I don't know you! You're not with the Nazareth prophet, are you?

Simon: **Oh...no, no, I'm not with him.**

Another comes forward, closely followed by a third. They crowd Simon.

Extra2: Are you sure, stranger? You speak just like him – you are one of his disciples!

Simon: **No! I am not!**

Extra3: My brother was at the olive grove, I recognise you – you attacked him! You must be one of them!

Simon: **It wasn't me, I do not know him!**

Silently, the crowd turn their backs on Simon and walk away, as he kneels.

Simon: What have I done?

Father, forgive me, for I have sinned
I don't understand why I betrayed him
But, Lord, please believe me, I just can't live
Until I am certain my friend will forgive

Scene 5: The Resurrection

Simon sits centrally, clearly frustrated.

Simon: So, what happens now? The Lord is alive! I can hardly believe it, but I have seen him. Thomas touched his hands, and we all saw the scars. He is alive, he is truly alive. But, what do we do now?

Jesus appears (pulpit?)

Simon: I have followed, but now it seems I may have to lead. I'm not good enough, despite what the Lord says, and I can't do this – I denied him. No such man should head the church. I need to go back to this, I need to fish. Fishing is what I know.

Jesus: Friend, have you caught anything?

Simon: **No, sir, nothing.** Do I know that man? He seems familiar...

Jesus: Throw your nets on the other side!

Simon: It can't be...**Jesus! Lord Jesus, it's you!**

Simon stands, and drags his feet as he approaches Jesus. He does not quite reach him.

Simon: What shall I say? Does he know? Of course he knows, what am I to do?

Freeze.

Narrator: Sin has been around since snakes and apples. Jesus died for that sin, and even though we are secure in that knowledge, we are still reluctant to confess our wrongs to God. We are ashamed of our inadequacy, but like any loving parent, God is prepared to forgive. And when we're slow to forgive ourselves, He meets us halfway.

Unfreeze.

Jesus: Peter, do you love me?

Simon: **Yes Lord, you know that I love you.**

Jesus: Then feed my lambs, bring new Christians to the faith. *pause* Peter, do you truly love me?

Simon: **Yes Lord, of course I love you!**

Jesus: Take care of my sheep, Peter, keep my followers learning and growing with God. *pause* Simon Peter, son of John, do you love me?

Simon: *upset* **Please, Lord, why do you ask? You know all things; you know that I love you!**

Jesus: I entrust the flock to you, Peter. And yes, I know that you love me. Perhaps it was you that needed a reminder – you love me, and I love you. Be at peace.

Scene 6: The Beginning

Simon stands centrally, three disciples kneeling around him.

Simon: **On this festival of Pentecost, we thank the Lord for all he has done and ask for his blessing on our gathering.**

Pause. Simon then steps forward and addresses the congregation.

Simon: **Do you all understand me, every one of you? The Lord wishes me to speak with you. No, I am not drunk, I have been sent by God. Let me tell you about his son, Jesus Christ; let me talk of Elijah and David, the words of great prophets come to light. I am Peter, I call you to repent and be baptised.**

Freeze.

Narrator: Simon Peter was a simple man. He was a fisherman by trade, he had no experience of ministry. Jesus found him and made him a fisher of men, but Peter had his doubts. He couldn't be the man Jesus described; he had no faith in himself or in his path.

Jesus changed him, and led him to change others. The Lord does the same for us. Every day He changes us, using His Spirit to guide our words, thoughts and deeds. And then He sends us out, to spread His love and guide others, change the world.

Jesus offers us what he offered to Simon Peter. Will you take it?