

- Did you know that the gigantic marble block that was used by Michelangelo to sculpt the David was ruined?
- Three different artists tried to work in this block of marble leaving the work after having damaged it
- The block of marble was in a state that no other sculptor wanted it, but Michelangelo accepted the challenge to sculpt it

How can beauty and such an iconic statue come from flawed rock?

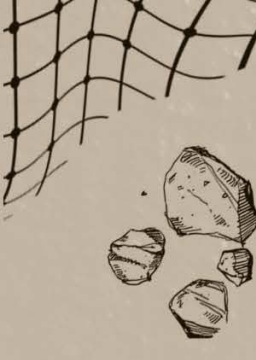




THREE-PART SERMON SERIES

A NOT SO PERFECT

ROCK

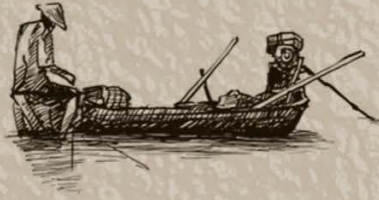


This 3-week series showcase Peter, the not-so-perfect Rock – a disciple of Jesus Christ. Though imperfect, yet Peter demonstrates resilience – under trying, tiring, and threatening circumstances. A resilience that is anchored, focused, and built on the foundations of Jesus Christ. Jesus took a not-so-perfect person with various flaws and made a leader out of him

A NOT SO PERFECT

ROCK





PART ONE

FORGING ON WHEN FAITH FLUCTUATES



Who was Peter?

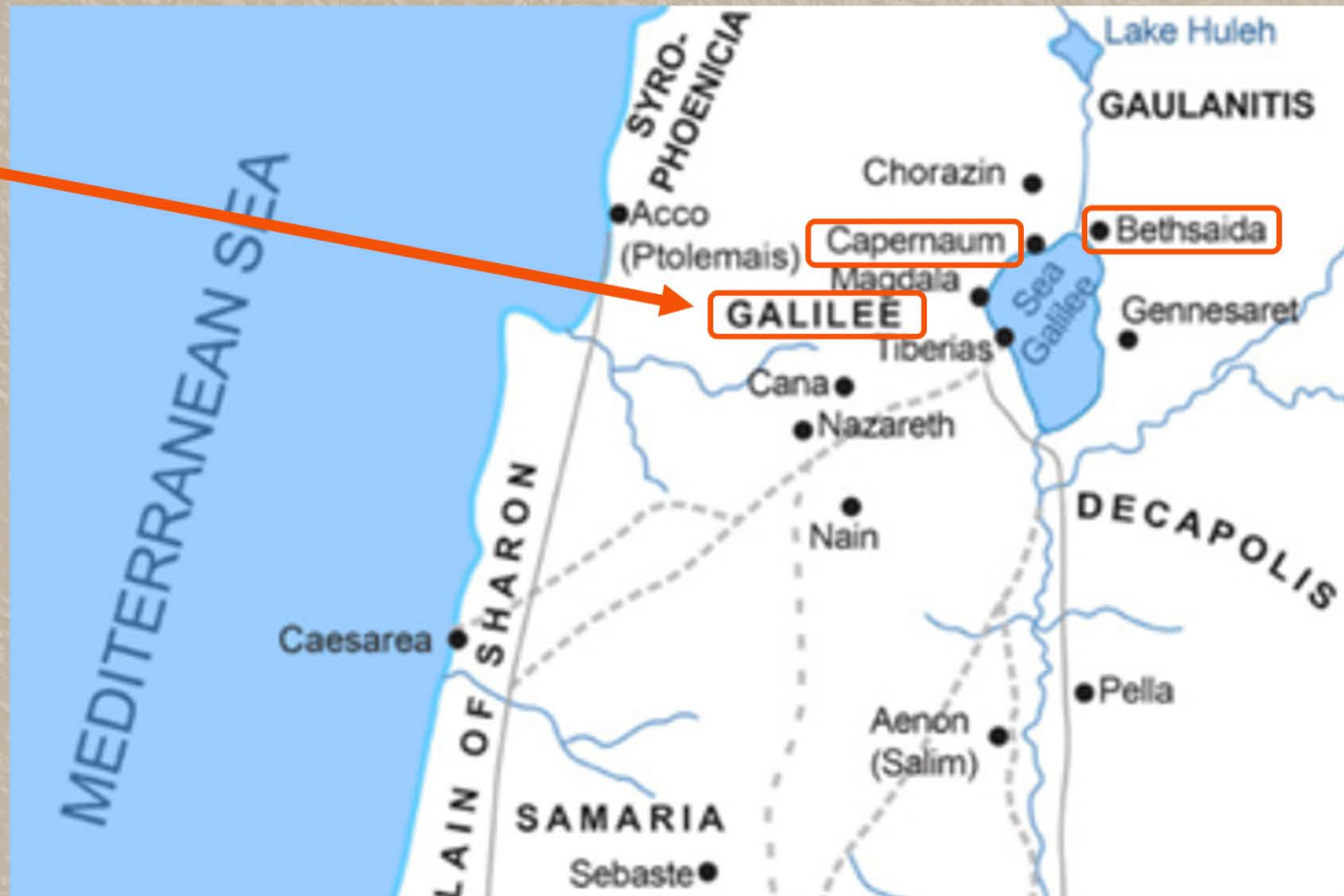


- Original name: Simon
- Jesus gave him the name, "Peter" – meaning "stone" or "rock"
- Profession: fisherman in Galilee whose family owns a boat and employs hired hands
- When called by Jesus to be His disciple; left his nets and followed Him





<https://bible-history.com/maps/palestine-nt-times>



Who was Peter?



- Named first on the lists of the apostles
- Member of Jesus' "inner circle" of Peter, James, and John
- Apostle and leader of the Jerusalem church (after Jesus' ascension)
- At Pentecost: interpreted the outpouring of the Spirit with prophecy from Joel 2 and 3000 got saved through his preaching
- Member of the Jerusalem Council
- His ministry demonstrated signs, wonders, miracles, judgement, healing





ANCHOR OUR FAITH IN GOD

MATTHEW 14:22-33

PETER'S NOT SO PERFECT FAITH

- His faith was enough to motivate him but not enough to sustain him
- Fluctuating faith: sometimes up, sometimes down
- "Doubt" (in Greek) – waver, to be of two minds
- From walking to sinking in water
- When Peter's faith fluctuates – he calls out to Jesus
- Jesus reproached but did not reject Peter
- Jesus overrides Peter's lack of faith and saves His disciple

SET OUR FOCUS
ON GOD'S PURPOSE

MATTHEW 16:13-18, 16:21-24

PETER'S NOT SO PERFECT FOCUS

- From receiving a revelation to refusing God's plan
- Peter's focus on a triumphant Messiah who will deliver the Jews from the Roman oppressors vs God's Purpose for the Messiah to die for the sin of humanity
- From rock to stumbling block
- From being praised to being rebuked by Jesus
- Fluctuating: sometimes "heavenly" sometimes "earthly" (human) minded
- Jesus continued to teach Peter and the disciples what true discipleship means. He did not reject or terminate Peter's discipleship



ANCHOR OUR FAITH IN GOD
SET OUR FOCUS ON
HIS PURPOSE





ANCHOR OUR FAITH IN GOD

SET OUR FOCUS ON

HIS PURPOSE

God may correct us when our faith and focus are imperfect
But He does not reject us or terminate His plan for us





*It is possible that our faith may go up/down and
our focus might shift from God's plan to our
human earthly concerns*

*Learn from the example of Peter – **Forge on** even
when faith fluctuates, and do not give up following God*

