

Mark 3:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Simon he surnamed Peter;

Analysis

Simon surnamed 'Peter' (Πέτρος) receives new identity. 'Peter' means 'rock' (from πέτρα), indicating stability, though Peter often showed instability (impulsiveness, denial). Jesus' naming demonstrates transformative grace—He calls us not based on current character but on what He will make us. Peter becomes spokesperson and leader among apostles, though not superior in authority. Peter's prominent position reflects bold personality and Jesus' sovereign choice.

Historical Context

'Simon' was common Jewish name (Hebrew Simeon). Jesus gave Aramaic name 'Cephas' (כִּיפָאס), translated to Greek 'Peter.' Name-changing signified new identity and mission (Abram to Abraham, Jacob to Israel, Saul to Paul). Peter became primary spokesman in early church (Acts 1-12), wrote two epistles, and according to tradition was martyred in Rome under Nero. Church tradition identifies Mark's Gospel as based on Peter's eyewitness testimony.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does Jesus' renaming of Simon encourage you that God transforms character?
2. What new identity has Christ given you that doesn't yet match current character?
3. How does Peter's leadership despite flaws demonstrate God's grace in using imperfect servants?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	ἐπέθηκεν	τῷ	Σίμωνι	ὄνομα	Πέτρον
And	he surnamed		Simon		Peter
G2532	G2007	G3588	G4613	G3686	G4074

Additional Cross-References

John 1:42 (Parallel theme): And he brought him to Jesus. And when Jesus beheld him, he said, Thou art Simon the son of Jona: thou shalt be called Cephas, which is by interpretation, A stone.

Acts 1:13 (References Peter): And when they were come in, they went up into an upper room, where abode both Peter, and James, and John, and Andrew, Philip, and Thomas, Bartholomew, and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon Zelotes, and Judas the brother of James.