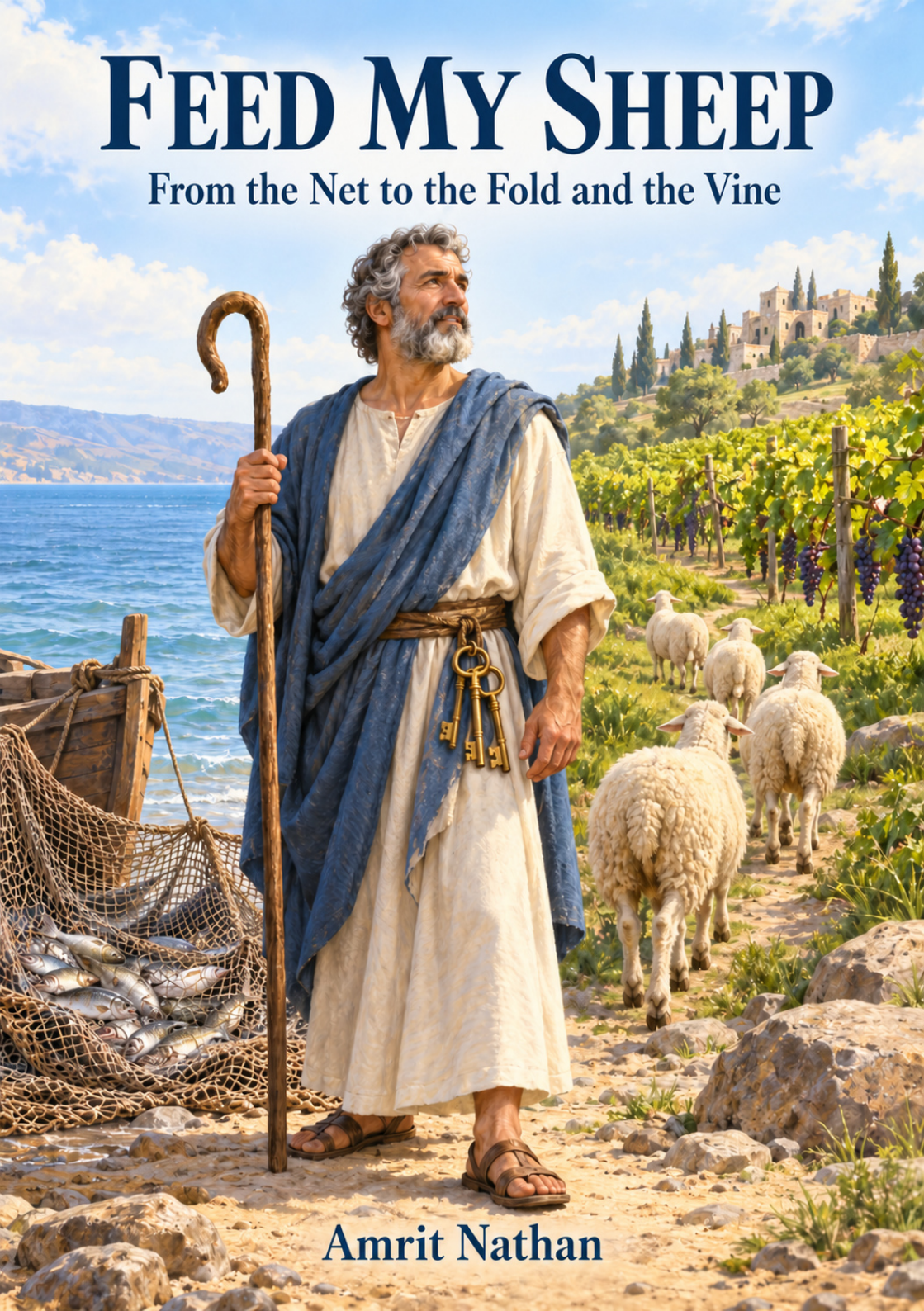
Feed My Sheep

From the Net to the Fold and the Vine



Amrit Nathan


Your word is a lamp to my feet
And a light to my path.
Psalm 119:105

THE THREE KEYS OF THE KINGDOM

"And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven."

Matthew 16:19

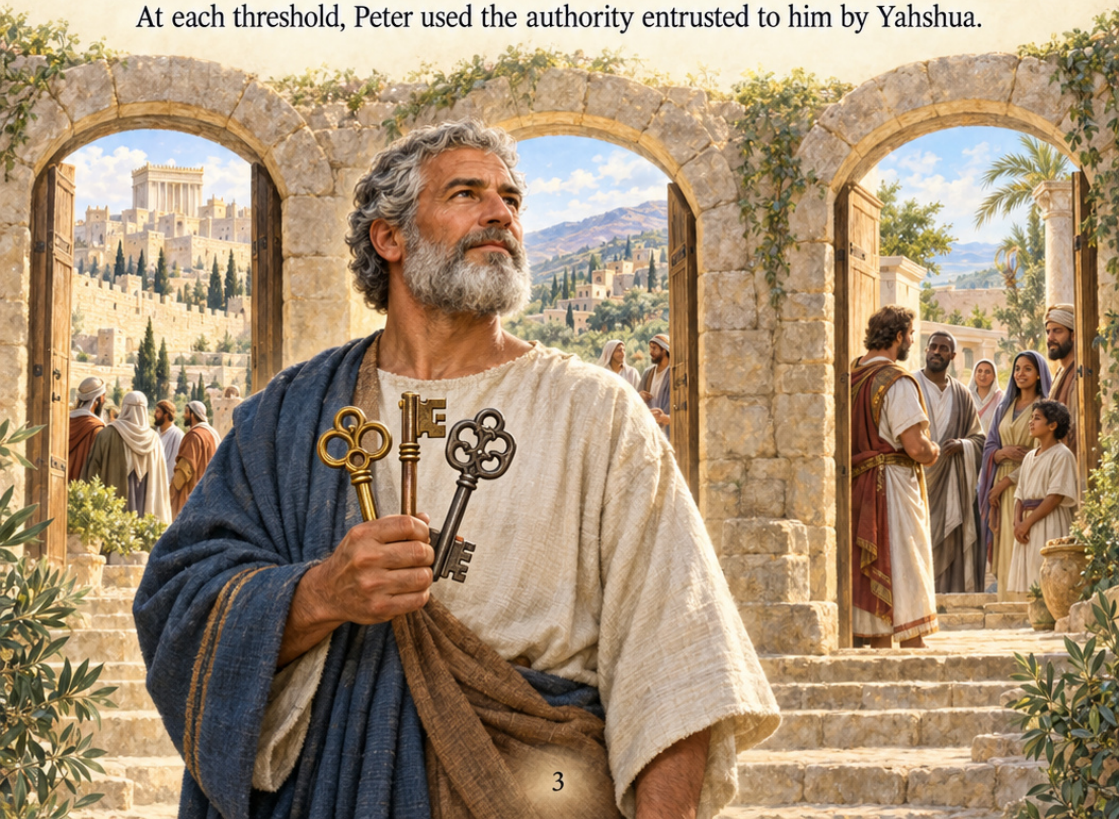
Yahshua spoke of keys, in the plural. In Acts, Peter stood at three great thresholds.

1. **JERUSALEM**
   Peter opened the door to Israel.
   Acts 2:14–41

2. **SAMARIA**
   Peter confirmed the work among the Samaritans.
   Acts 8:14–17

3. **THE HOUSE OF CORNELIUS**
   Peter opened the door to the nations.
   Acts 10:34–48

At each threshold, Peter used the authority entrusted to him by Yahshua.



Three Stages of Growth

"Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Yahshua Messiah for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."

Acts 2:38

1. Repent

The fish is gathered from the waters.

The fish is rescued.

2. Be Baptized

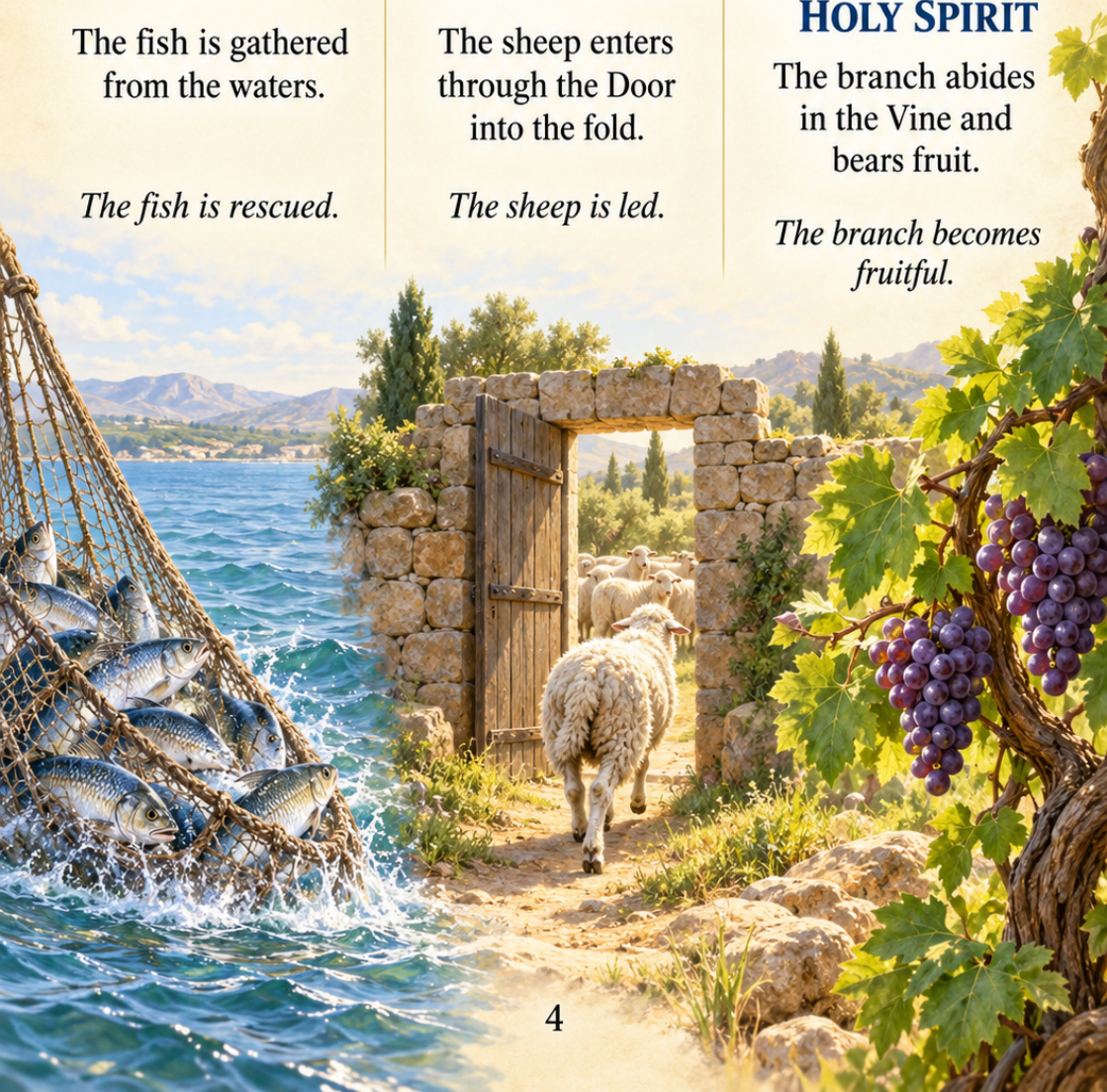
The sheep enters through the Door into the fold.

The sheep is led.

3. Receive the Holy Spirit

The branch abides in the Vine and bears fruit.

The branch becomes fruitful.



THE FISH ARE GATHERED

"Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men."
Matthew 4:19

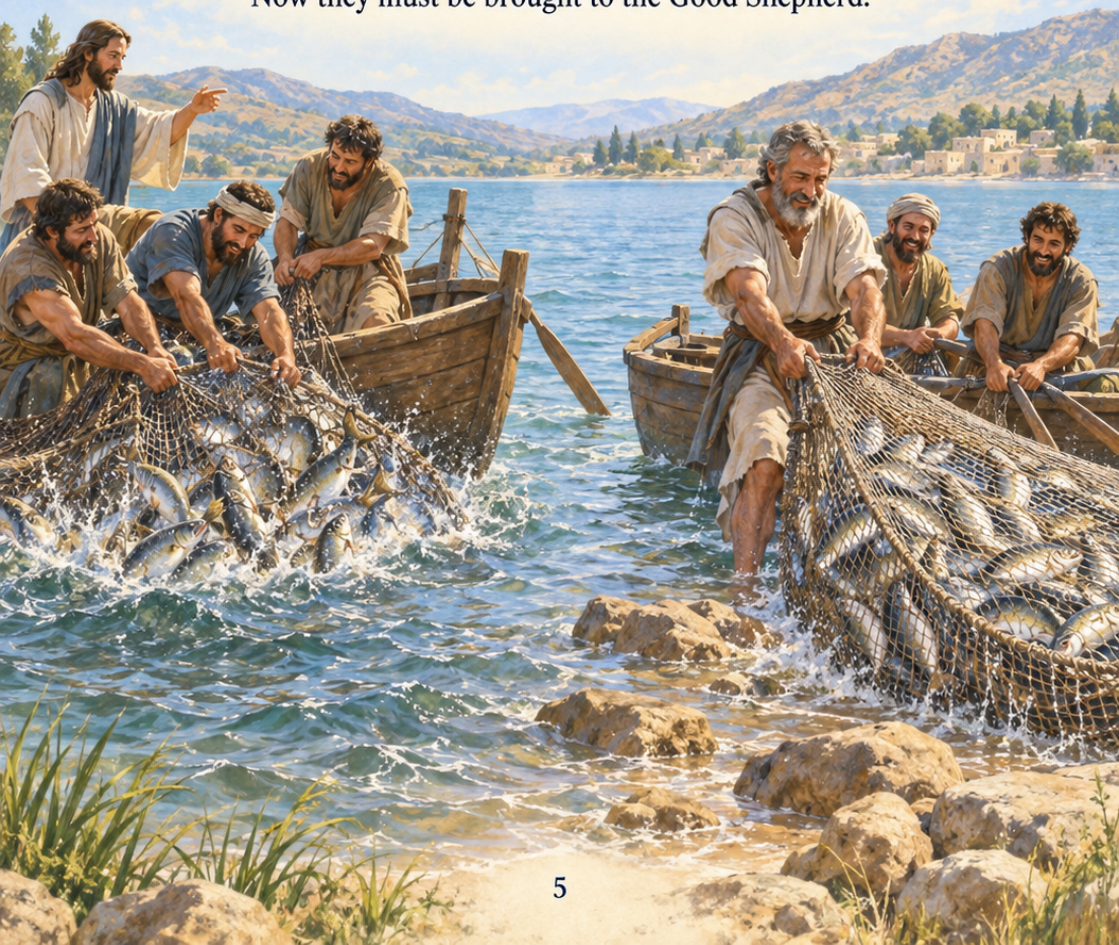
THE FIRST CATCH
In Luke 5, the catch was so great that the net began to break.

THE RESURRECTION CATCH
In John 21, Peter drew 153 fish to the shore, yet the net was not broken.

Yahshua directed both catches. But after His resurrection, Peter drew the unbroken net ashore.

The fish picture those drawn from the waters of their former kingdom.

They have been gathered.
Now they must be brought to the Good Shepherd.



FROM THE NET TO THE FOLD

The disciples were called to gather people as fishermen.
Yahshua is the Good Shepherd.

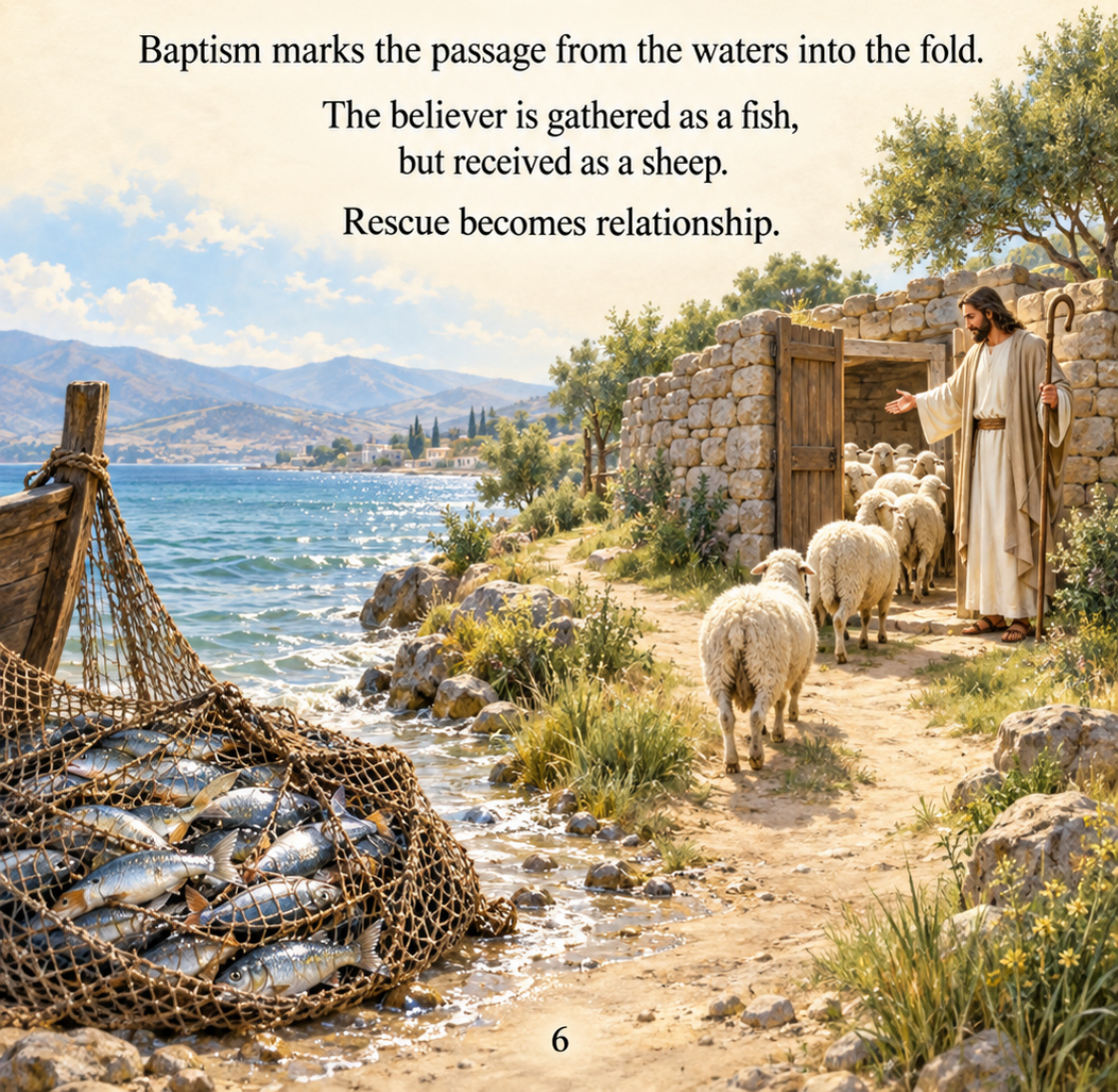
The fishermen gather.
The Shepherd leads.

"I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture."
John 10:9

Baptism marks the passage from the waters into the fold.

The believer is gathered as a fish,
but received as a sheep.

Rescue becomes relationship.



THE SHEEP KNOW HIS VOICE

"The sheep hear his voice; and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out."
John 10:3

"I am the good shepherd; and I know My sheep, and am known by My own."
John 10:14

Yahshua leads, provides, protects and knows every sheep.
The flock belongs to Him.

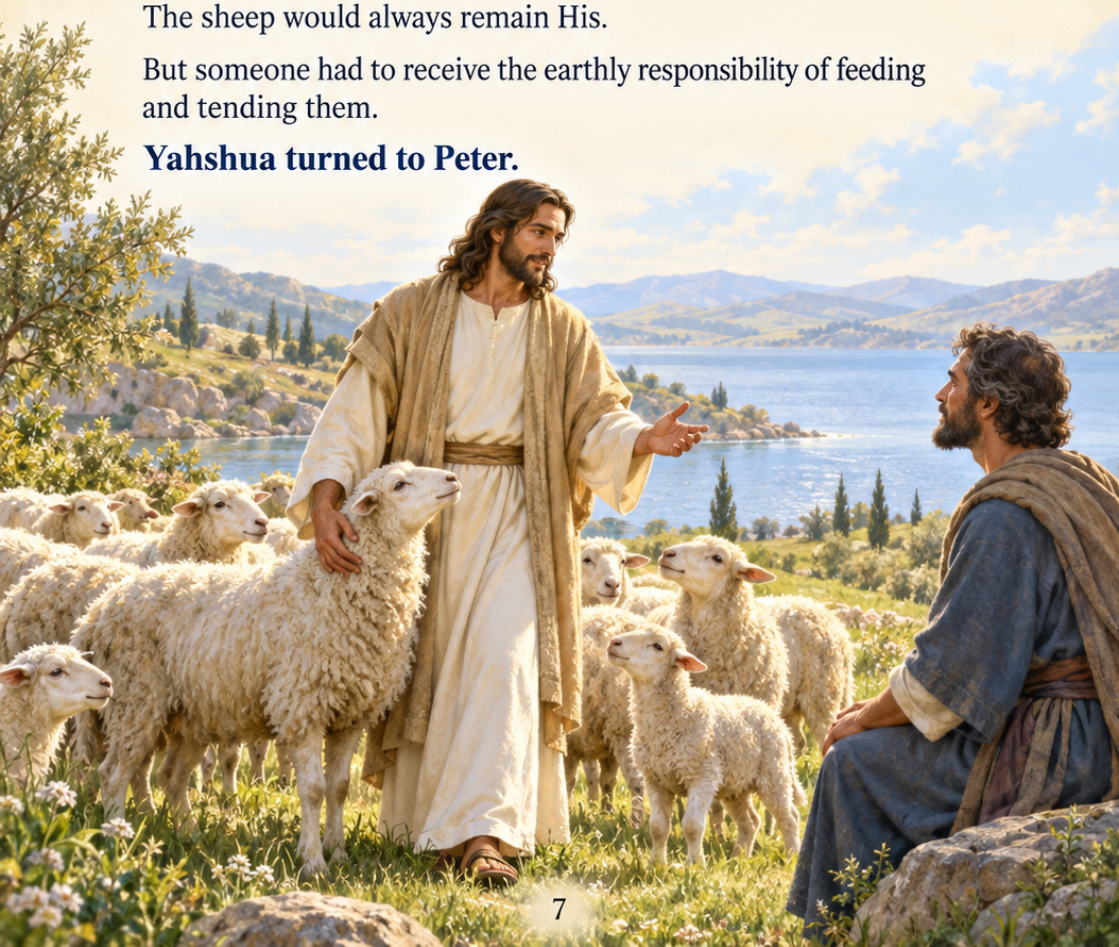
Even when He later spoke to Peter, Yahshua said:

"My lambs."
"My sheep."
"My sheep."

The sheep would always remain His.

But someone had to receive the earthly responsibility of feeding and tending them.

Yahshua turned to Peter.



THE COMMISSION IS ESTABLISHED

Three times Peter affirmed his love.
Three times Yahshua declared his commission.

"Feed My lambs."
"Tend My sheep."
"Feed My sheep."

John 21:15–17

"By the mouth of two or three witnesses the matter shall be established."
Deuteronomy 19:15

Peter's answer was affirmed three times.
Yahshua's commission was declared three times.
The disciples witnessed the exchange.

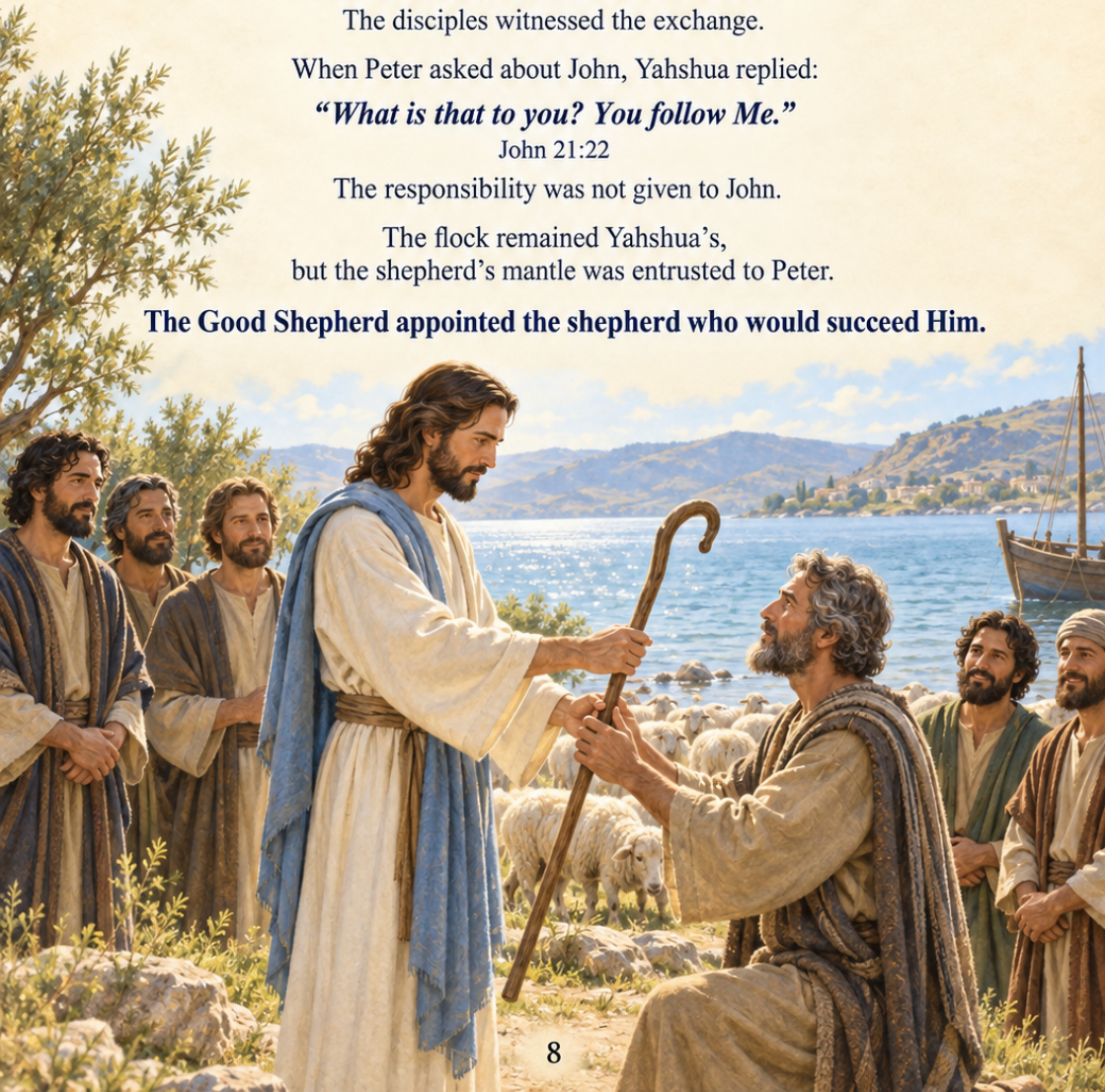
When Peter asked about John, Yahshua replied:

"What is that to you? You follow Me."
John 21:22

The responsibility was not given to John.

The flock remained Yahshua's,
but the shepherd's mantle was entrusted to Peter.

The Good Shepherd appointed the shepherd who would succeed Him.



THE COIN IN THE FISH

"When you take the census of the children of Israel for their number, then every man shall give a ransom for himself to the LORD."
Exodus 30:12

The half-shekel identified those counted among Israel.

Yahshua told Peter to take the coin from the fish:

"Take that, and give it to them for Me and you."
Matthew 17:27

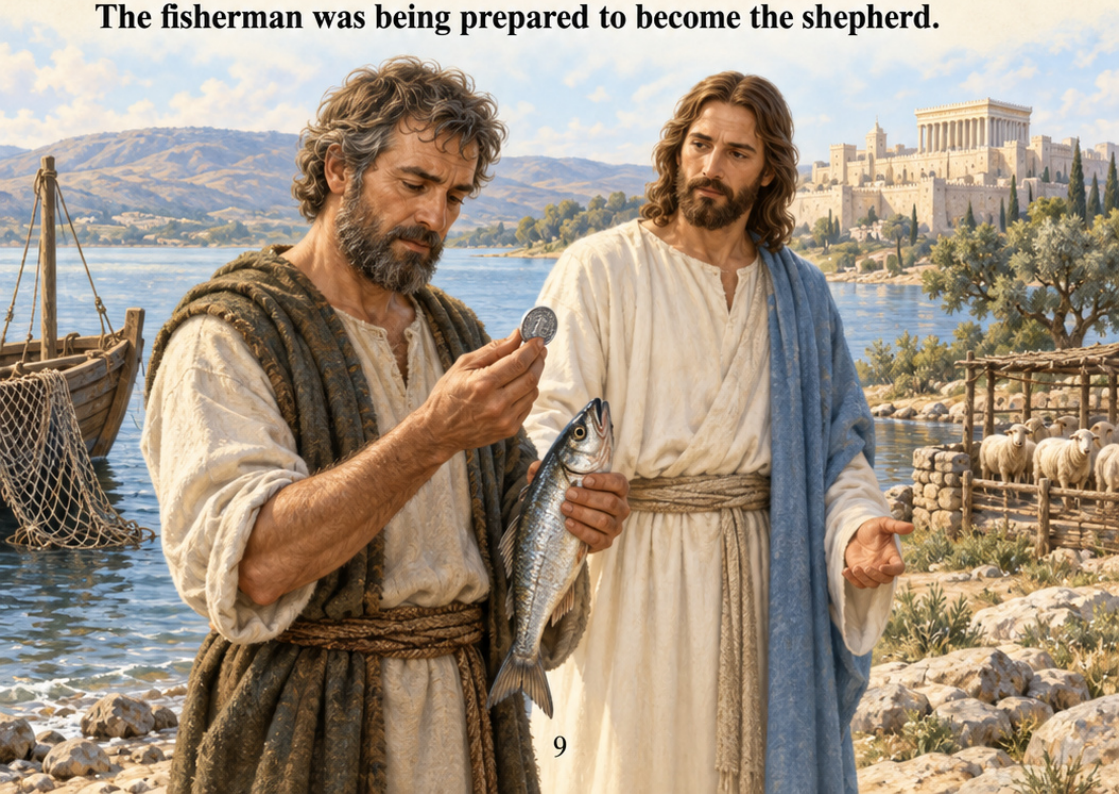
The coin was sufficient for two half-shekels.
No other disciple was included.

The coin came through a fish.
The fisherman who retrieved it was Peter.
The payment joined Yahshua and Peter in one account.

Yahshua was the head of the spiritual household.
Peter was counted with Him.

Later, Peter received the keys, drew the unbroken net ashore and was entrusted with the flock.

The fisherman was being prepared to become the shepherd.



FROM THE FOLD TO THE VINE

Peter's work as shepherd was essential, but the sheepfold was not the believer's final destination.

The third stage is life in the Holy Spirit.

"I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser."
John 15:1

The believer is no longer pictured merely as a fish rescued from the waters, or as a sheep protected within the fold, but as a living branch joined to the Vine.

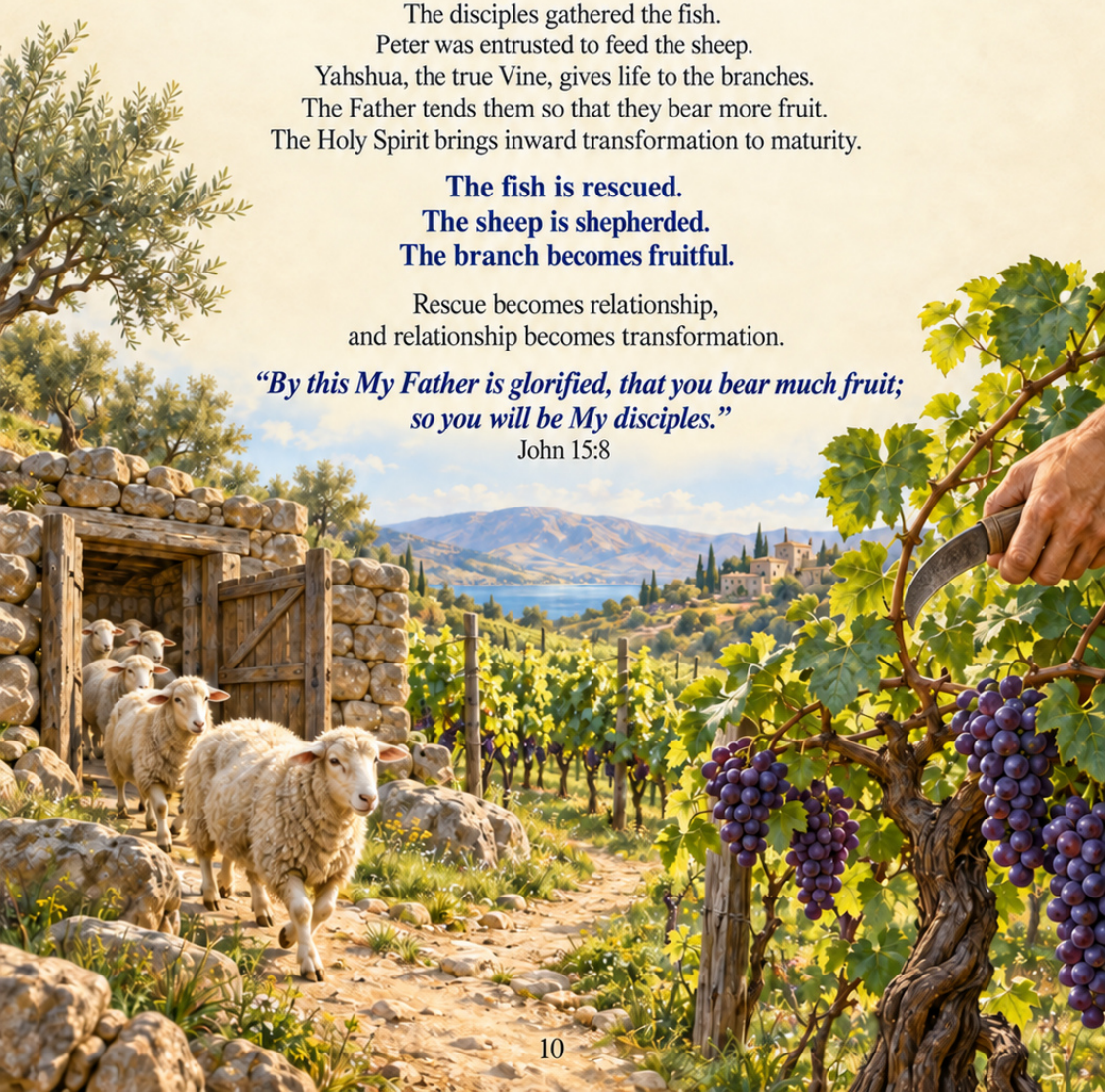
"Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me."
John 15:4

The disciples gathered the fish.
Peter was entrusted to feed the sheep.
Yahshua, the true Vine, gives life to the branches.
The Father tends them so that they bear more fruit.
The Holy Spirit brings inward transformation to maturity.

The fish is rescued.
The sheep is shepherded.
The branch becomes fruitful.

Rescue becomes relationship,
and relationship becomes transformation.

"By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples."
John 15:8



WHERE ARE YOU IN THIS JOURNEY?

Yahshua called His disciples to become fishers of men.
The fish were gathered from the waters.
The sheep entered through the Door.
Peter was entrusted to feed the flock.
The branches were called to abide in the Vine.

Have you heard the call to repent?
Have you entered through baptism into the fold?
Are you listening to the voice of the Good Shepherd?
Are you receiving the spiritual food He has provided?
Are you abiding in Yahshua and bearing the fruit of the Holy Spirit?

It is possible to be caught in the net and yet resist entering the fold.
It is possible to enter the fold and yet refuse the Shepherd's leading.
It is possible to be fed and yet fail to grow into a fruitful branch.

Yahshua gathered us so that we might follow Him, receive His life and bear fruit to the glory of the Father.

The invitation remains:

"Follow Me."

The fish must leave the waters.
The sheep must follow His voice.
The branch must remain in the Vine.

Where are you in this journey?



"I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.

I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them."

Ezekiel 36:26–27