JESUS AS SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR

Some Definitions of Spiritual Direction:

Jean Laplace “The help one Christian gives to another to enable that person to become himself/herself in faith”
William Connolly: “Privileged communication with another member of the Church about his/her relationship with God”
Eugene Marz: “The spiritual director is one with whom I share my vision of the Lord and the Lord’s vision of me, one to whom I say, ‘Keep me true to this vision, i.e., help me to be faithful’”
Adrian van Kaam: “Spirit-supported, prudent, educated and well-informed personal assistance that is dialogical, an assistance in unconditional faith, hope and love, given to a fellow Christian’s attempt to discover and realize his/her self-direction in Christ”

Jesus did not set out to be a spiritual director, so we cannot “read it into” the gospels. Rather, we watch Jesus interacting with people to see if we can learn things about ourselves as directors and directees.

Jesus and Peter—significant moments in an ongoing relationship:

2) Storm on the lake—Matthew 14:23–33
3) Peter’s profession of faith—Matthew 16:13–20 and 21–28
5) Transfiguration—Matthew 17:1–9
   a) Peter and the passion and death of Jesus—Matthew 26:31–75
9) Resurrection—John 20:1–10 and 19–23
10) Love and forgiveness—John 21
11) Life-long development—Peter in Acts and Galatians

Other fruitful passages for this approach:

John 4—the woman at the well

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