



SERMON NOTES

GLOBAL OUTREACH CHURCH

PETER: FROM ORDINARY TO EXTRAORDINARY (Ga.2:9; Re.3:12 NLT).

OBSERVATION FROM PETER'S LIFE:

1. Jesus calls us into an intimate relationship with Him - "follow me" - (Jn.1:40-42; Ps.103:7; Mt.4:19; Mk.3:13-14; Ep.2:12-13; He.8:10-11;4:16) - this is purpose of "Grace Reality" (a small group of people coming together to discover and grow in their knowledge of who God is, while learning to live in community with one another). Jesus saw Peter as an impatient, impulsive and imperfect person with potential to be extraordinary.
2. Jesus' pursuit of Peter was over a period of time; had healed his mother in law and later called him & others away from their business during their work hours (Lk.4:38-39; 5:1-3).
3. Jesus miraculously provides a catch of fish on a bad day at work for the fishermen as backdrop for calling Peter away from his business, thus providing assurance not only to Peter but also his immediate family - my story was very similar (Jn.2:11,23; 20:30-31; Lk.4:38-39; 5:1-10 - signs given that they might believe).
4. Peter walked on water at Jesus' beckoning as long as he kept his eyes on Jesus. Once he started to focus on the storms, he began to sink (Mt.14:25-30; Jn.6:21) - hence the admonition to look upon Jesus - always put Jesus between us and the circumstances and not the other way around (sickness, lack, etc.).
5. Peter commended by Jesus for knowing who He was (Mt.16:16) - inspired by God.
6. Six verses later he was rebuked as "satan" by Jesus (Mt.16:21-23) - inspired by satan.
7. Jesus impulsiveness gets the better part of him again at the mount of transfiguration (Mt.17:1-5; He.1:2-3) - inspired by his flesh.
8. Jesus reveals that satan wants to sift Peter as wheat (Lk.22:31-34,54-62) - Peter's response reveals his trust in himself, his immaturity & pride; Jesus' look wasn't a condemnation, but an assurance of his love and that he was in full control of the situation.
9. Jesus didn't leave Peter in a lurch, but consoles him (Mk.16:5-7; 1Co.15:5 AMPC).
10. Jesus restores Peter into the ministry (Jn.21:15-19).



Failing forward: what we learn from Peter's failure:

1. We do crazy things when we're fearful. i.e. my initial response when a team member tested positive for Covid in Colombo; where fear exists, faith does not. Peter began to sink when he saw the waves. He was fearful in spite of Jesus forewarning (Lk.22:31-34,61 ESV). Illustration - Marvin Gaye's - was shot & killed by his father. In his last days, he feared for his life. He stayed at home most of the time because he thought someone was trying to kill him. He was bound by fear. He was so afraid that when someone brought him a hotdog, he examined it to make sure there was nothing on it that would kill him. Marvin was living with his father. One day his father picked up a gun and killed him. His father walked outside, threw the gun in the yard and waited for the police to arrive. Death came to Marvin's house. WHY? It was because of fear. Anything you greatly fear can come upon you. It's a spiritual truth. Fear is a destructive force, just like faith is a spiritual force, so is fear. They're both magnets. Faith draws good things into your life, fear draws bad things. God hasn't given you the spirit of fear (2 Ti.1:7).
2. Perfect love casts out fear - that is, God's perfect love towards us - we need to believe and embrace God's perfect love - What does perfect love look like from God's perspective? - look at the 2 thieves on the cross that were crucified with Jesus (Mt.27:44; Mk.15:32; Lk.23:39-43 AMPC).
3. You have a spirit of faith. Release that faith that's on the inside of you by speaking good things over your life today (2Co.4:13). Imagine faith like a helicopter, which has the ability to hover over an area. When the gospel is preached, faith comes like a helicopter and hovers over the person hearing the gospel. If the hearer rejects the word they hear, faith goes away (Nu.13 - the bad report of the Hebrew spies; He.4:2).
4. He overcame fear and was a bold and courageous leader in the early church who was transformed by the power of the resurrected Christ (Acts 2:14,22-24; 4:12-13).