

## REMAKING A MAN, RENEWING A MIND - (PART I SERM) July 10, 2005

STUDY OF PETER - JOHN 1: 32-42; ROMANS 12:1-2; TEXT JOHN 1:42;INTRO: Believing in Jesus and getting “into” Him” and He “into” you are two totally different things. Having a heart filled with desire, without a new mind of devotion seems contradictory to me. There seems to be a considerable gap between the initial “following” of Jesus, and the later “flow” of Him in their lives. I’m really convinced more and more of the difference in the “talk” and the “walking of Jesus” in Christians. We are going to find that a lot of people who have sincere desire for Christ keep failing. Interesting that we like quick fixes, instant perfection, overnight maturity. Yet it is just as disturbing that we neglect the need for a change of mind as well as a change heart. *What fills your mind right now? What are you filling it with?* What if your complete transformation today was not some new emotional experience or high, not a shallow wish for God to fix “things” in your life, but a whole new mind-set, a whole new destiny. What if your life was to be totally changed, not from the outside, but the inside out? What if the things you desperately hold on to slipped away and you suddenly loved the things He loves? What if in fact you had His mind-set? How is that accomplished? **Only, only in the scriptures do we find those answers.** Jesus had more reason to operate out of gifts and authority and power and position than anyone...yet He, the Son of God always based His existence, His actions, and His service on PRAYER (intimacy with the Father), and THE SCRIPTURES. Too often we want things to happen without prayer, without “searching the scriptures”... for it is in them we have eternal life revealed. We cannot and must not be stirring up gifts and offices, without stirring up a solid foundation of scripture. We are not better at this than Jesus. If He lived on prayer and “it is written”, we can do no less. I’m weary of the study of scripture taking a back seat to every other thing in the body building of a church. I wonder sometimes if Bible studies should not be the largest crowds a church has of believers. I just wonder... that’s all.

### THE SNAPSHOT OF PETER

In Matthew 14: 28-33 this man walked on water... I like his stepping out. In Luke 5: 1-11 He casts his fishing nets on the other side of the boat at the request of Jesus...I like his willingness to try something that seems useless. In Matthew 17: 1-4 he wants to make a shrine for Jesus and the prophets... I like his enthusiasm. In Matthew 18: 21 he asks how often we should forgive,, I like his desire to do the right thing. In Matthew 16: 15-25 I love his revelation that “Jesus IS the Christ”. **And yet,** his walking on water seems like some Christian activity without the mind of Christ. His casting nets on the other side seems like the times we are willing to listen after we have lost everything. His desire to build three tabernacles seems to miss the point of enjoying the presence of God, his question on forgiveness seems to be rules without the Rulers heart. And his revelation of Christ seems to **not** overcome his own fleshly desires. It seems his sincerity does not overcome his patterns, style or mind-set.

### THE STYLE OF PETER

In Matthew 16: 15-25 after Peter says “thou art the Christ” Jesus announces that His, yes, even His life must die

for eternal life to come. Jesus must follow the scriptures to their fulfillment. Peter says “no way, this will not happen to you” and Jesus has to tell Peter his thinking is the world’s thinking. I am bothered by Peter’s style. In Matthew 26: 26-45 Peter says “ I will die for you” and then fell asleep during a prayer meeting called by Jesus. In John 13:8 when Jesus is washing feet to show what the Christian life is really about, Peter says, “never shall you wash my feet”. Jesus responds with the fact that He has to serve... that’s what the Scripture calls Him, “the suffering Servant”. In Matthew 26: 58, we are told that Peter followed “at a distance” the events of Christ’s life near the end. We all like to be in the middle of miracles, but not in the middle of the other prophecies of Jesus. **That’s when crowds go away**, when the getting stops and the giving starts. During this time the man, *Peter, who said He would die for Jesus, denied Him three different times.* One of the Gospels, John, records that before this... Peter had cut off the ear of Malchus, who was with those who were capturing Jesus. He was willing to fight for an earthly king and kingdom, but not for a heavenly one. Yes, I am really bothered by Peter’s style at these points...probably because it seems all too familiar. *There are so many who will bless if it seems they will be blessed, but will walk away if they can’t see what’s in it for them.* I take heart in Luke 22:31 where Jesus says “Satan really wants you Peter, but I am praying for you”. He tells Peter “When you are **converted**, strengthen your brothers”. WHAT IS IT THAT HAS TO BE CONVERTED? Interesting question. Peter had cast out demons, healed the sick, seen the raising of Lazarus, witnessed the 5000 fed in a miracle of Christ, seen the transfiguration... and yet, needed to be converted? You may have been baptized, confirmed, dedicated. Maybe you claim to be born again, filled with the Spirit, delivered from bondage and yet... your style of life doesn’t show much change. We find that the answer to Peter’s need in scripture, is your answer too. *The starting point is clear. Respond to His call for you to start a new journey with Him. Leave your past sins, failures, pain, and even temporary success behind. Are you willing to start down a whole new road? A road where your mind-set, your patterns, your life style, and yes your destiny is under a whole new control? It is not a wide or broad road. This is a road far less traveled, but REAL peace, joy, and fulfillment is found in this “narrow” less traveled way...for “Jesus is the way”.*

PRAYER: JESUS I WANT TO HAVE YOUR LIFE, BECOME MY LIFE, YOUR HEART BE MY HEART, AND YOUR MIND BE MY MIND. I WANT TO START DOWN THAT ROAD NOW...EVEN TODAY. I WANT MY LIFE STYLE TO BE A MANIFESTATION OF MY HEART. AND I WANT MY MIND TO BE RENEWED SO MY THOUGHTS, PLANS AND DREAMS ARE ALL SURRENDERED TO YOUR DESIRES. AMEN.

1. What does it mean to present my body a living sacrifice? Romans 12:1
2. What is spiritual worship, (or reasonable service)?
3. What does Jesus call me to that I have not seen displayed in my life yet? John 1:42
4. What differences are there in my God-given personality, and the style, mind-set or patterns I have developed?
5. Do I see differences in my heart’s desires and my mind’s operation?
6. What is the difference in the kingdom of this world, and God’s Kingdom?