

REMAKING A MAN, RENEWING A MIND (Outline)

John 1: 40-42, Romans 12: 1-2

INTRODUCTION

Last week we talked about the difference between the “following Jesus” concept and the “flow” of Jesus in a life. We discussed the differences between heart’s desire and the *follow through* of the mind. The talk and the walk concept. Peter was often making promises with good intentions that were not followed through on. Yet, we know his desire was there. I am convinced that this “change of mind” is a lot more important than what we have known or taught. So many are tormented by their failures. The mind, as I see it, is the entry gate to so much that ends up disturbing our heart’s intentions and desires. Can the mind be changed, YES! How! When? By what? Not all of those questions are as obvious as they seem. There is always a response required. God is the initiator of all things. His grace is what makes it possible to even respond, but respond we must, because the Holy Spirit is a guide, not a mercenary. Let’s go further into our study of Peter, specifically, and the disciples over all. I will not focus on the renewal of the mind specifically today as much as on a remaking process of the man. That certainly has great implications for renewing of the mind, however. And after all, remember from our reading of Romans 12:1-2 that the physical, behavioral, and mind-set are all included in the complete redemptive process.

REMINDERS

Jesus has a way of showing us from the get-go who is in control. He always manifests Himself into our life to show us something larger than the manifestation. We think smaller than He does. He performs a miracle in our life, we see the immediate result, He sees the long term principle. Let’s look at this from the account in LUKE 5:1-11. Notice the gentle way Jesus places Himself into Peter’s life (his boat). He seeks to use those things that are available and important to us, to teach a larger principle. In verse 5, Peter states “we have toiled all night”. In the *MESSAGE* it reads like this: Simon said, "Master, we've been fishing hard all night and haven't caught even a minnow. But if you say so, I'll let out the nets." That’s part of the problem in our lives. If we fail to let God be the initiator we will keep putting out nets for minnows or less. And we will be fatigued. The Greek word here in verse 5, (kopiao^ν), KOPIAO means *fatigued*. All of our effort, all of our resources, all of our know how, seems insufficient, inadequate, and meaningless at times...BUT.. He simply reminds us to **launch out**. It is NOT our plan, NOT, our ability, but just a simple *response* that is required. Do you know where else this word is used? It is in John 4: 5-6. The same word Kopiao is applied to Jesus as He sits at the well outside of Samaria. Jesus knew fatigue. He also knew His source... the Father. Peter’s statement of “nevertheless at your word” he would do it, is more than just frustration. It is a yielding to the Master in the midst of confusion. Jesus reminds all the disciples of this first meeting with Him in JOHN 21. Same type of situation, just a reminder that the ONE who was in control in the beginning is still able, still wanting, still loving, and STILL in control of all, if you will respond to Him.

In Matthew 26:34, after Peter says, “ I will never fall away”, Jesus tells Peter that Peter is not capable of carrying this desire out. Why? I can’t question Peter’s intentions, but there is something missing. Something beyond emotion, desire and intention. He really does not have the “mind of Christ” driving his existence, purpose or destiny. Call it carnal, call it self-enthronement, call it anything Biblical, but don’t ignore it, or you will live in miracles without ever being moved into who you “shall be”. You will remain as you are until you *REALLY* understand what He means by “launch out.”

REMAKING

Reminders without *remaking* would bring nothing useful...only condemnation. He shows us our limitations to show us His limitlessness, not to have us focus on our failures. To focus on our need of His resource, His mind, His heart. All of this is to begin the remaking process, which includes restoration and renewal. If you keep forgetting who God is and what His life comes from, you will keep going through the process until you remember. That’s because God will keep on going until you are changed into His

image. He doesn't want you hoping for it, thinking about it, wishing it were true. He wants to CHANGE you into His image. That can never be an outside in deal. It must be inside out!! It is not good enough to say "well, I've blown it 100 times and I'll blow it again", rather it is to know that REDEMPTION is also to restore and renew. In other words **change** you from CEPHAS TO PETER. We find this principle strongly at work in the following passages: Our text indicates from John 1:42, what you are is not what you shall be. Do we have any doubts about the differences in Simon and Cephas or Peter of the books I and II Peter? NO. I know that He was breathed on by Jesus before the ascension and I feel something happened right then, to put them in the place of going to a room in one accord. I know the Holy Spirit fell on him at Pentecost, and something happened right then. I also know that something was going on before all of this to empty Simon of himself, so that he could be remade and renewed. In our reading of Luke 5: 1-11 we see the principle of the Father at work. Specifically in Luke 5:4 Jesus has said "launch out into the deep". The word "*bath'-os*" here means spiritual depth, mystery and extent of things as well as just physical depth. This word is used mostly in the spiritual context. What is this spiritual depth, and what is the larger purpose of Jesus in this fishing event? Well, I think it is really to initiate a remaking of Simon into Cephas. Remember, we are guided into all truth by the Holy Spirit. There are crisis experiences in our spiritual lives and there are process experiences. There are processes that lead to crisis, and there are processes after a crisis experience with the Lord. Here is the real preparation of Peter in this story: LUKE 5:10: "Do not be afraid, from now on you will catch men". This word catch means to "capture." This is the larger picture. Not fish, not provisions, not miracles for their own sake but to lead you to what He has dreamed for you. There would be many more experiences that Jesus would teach Peter through. It isn't that you should go through failure after failure in order that God could remake you, it is rather that He will use your failures to be part of the remaking process of your life and begin, I say begin a creation of a new mind in you. That even your successes in Him are not for you to revel in, they are to bring you into the life of the Father, who is clearly all about the capturing the hearts of people.

RESPONSE

There is a response required. Vs. 11: "So when they had brought their boats to land, they forsook all and followed Him". You see this is in the active voice. They left, forsook, gave up their present life for His vision for them. FROM NOW ON, that's the key. You were, you are, you shall be. In this kind of response a renewal can begin. It is death to the old and life in the new. You launch out in response to Him, you leave all, in response to Him. There will be more reminders, remaking and responses along the way. Many of them, but they will reach a crisis, a time in which they will say "It is finished", "I am crucified with Christ, I no longer live, but Christ in me." All the experiences will be used by God to bring you to your knees in your own garden, just like Jesus, and then..... you will get the same mind Jesus had. The Father's mind. Here is the Peter that Jesus saw should be: I Peter 1:13:16 - "*13- Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; 14 as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance; 15 but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, 16 because it is written, z "Be holy, for I am holy."*" NKJV

1. What miracle has God performed in my life, that has changed my direction in life?
2. Is there an area over which I am fatigued?
3. Has Jesus brought me to the point of surrender in this?