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Thank God for Peter

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# Things are looking up

Two years ago I stood up here in silence, last year I preached a message titled you're all going to die. This year I am taking and that is not the title of my message, so things are looking up!

# Peter

Luke 5:4-8 (ESV) And when he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, “Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch.” And Simon answered, “Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! But at your word I will let down the nets.” And when they had done this, they enclosed a large number of fish, and their nets were breaking. They signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, “Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord.”

Luke 5:10-11 (ESV) “Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men.” And when they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed him.

For a long time when I am reading about Simon Peter saying he is a sinful man that has always made me sad. We see a man realizing his failure, weakness, and sinfulness. His first compulsion is to quit believing in himself and push God away. Instead of running to God the first thing he does is creating distance.

We could applaud him for knowing holiness. But when I read it I realize he doesn't know he can draw close to God. What I want to talk about today are 2 things. Thank God for Peter! You always know something awesome is going to happen when Peter is in there. He makes me feel so much better about myself!

# Thank God for Peter

1. A quality of Peter that I long for in my life

A journey through highlights and low lights.

1. Do not be afraid, from now on you will fish people!

A Father that ignores you when you don’t want Him to come close.

Do you relate to Peter? A rollercoaster of going high and low. I hope to do that by jumping through a couple of Scriptures.

It is so funny, from lopping off someone’s ear to being fully washed. I am awesome when I am doing well and stay away when I’ve made mistakes.

# Hero to zero moments of Peter

## Walking on water

Matthew 14:25-29 (ESV) And in the fourth watch of the night he came to them, walking on the sea. But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, and said, “It is a ghost!” and they cried out in fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, “Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid.”

And Peter answered him, “Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.” He said, “Come.”

The stage is set for this heroic moment for Peter. All the other disciples are totally comfortable in the boat. But it is Peter the great hero who knows that whatever Jesus speaks there will be a grace released. You can see Peter walking upon the water looking at Jesus, there is a vulnerability in the moment. As he walks out Peter walks to the heroic moment and as he does he is staring at Jesus.

This is what I think happened, started off really nervous and then he kind of got it. Started dancing around on the water. Jesus is watching like aah Peter, turn up the wind and the waves and you all know what happens: from being a hero in the moment to freaking out taking his eyes of Jesus. And going from being on top of the world to going sinking!

Matthew 14:29-33 (ESV) So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus. But when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, “Lord, save me.” Jesus immediately reached out his hand and took hold of him, saying to him, “O you of little faith, why did you doubt?” And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, “Truly you are the Son of God.”

You can imagine Peter wincing: I am on the water, look at all of the others they are still in the boat! Classic Peter transaction, from being amazing to being a hero.

## The rock!

Matthew 16:13-16 (ESV) Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” Simon Peter replied, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”

HEROOOO

Matthew 16:17-18 (ESV) And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven.

Basking in the affirmation right now

(Matthew 16:18 ESV) And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church

Peter was the rock! He realized this and was so full of enthusiasm. That is how I imagine it. Peter basking in this heroic moment called by Jesus Himself he was called the rock!

Matthew 16:21 (ESV) From that time Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised.

Peter at that point thinks he needs to motivate the one with little faith right now.

Matthew 16:22-23 (ESV) And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, “Far be it from you, Lord! This shall never happen to you.” But he turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me. For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man.”

You can just see Peter like an inflated thing. The disciples are watching him. You heard the guy, we’re going to call you satan from now on. Again another classic Hero to zero moment!

## The transfiguration

Matthew 17:1-2 (ESV) And after six days Jesus took with him Peter and James, and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun,

Imagine Jesus’ face being as bright as the sun!

Matthew 17:2-4 (ESV) and his clothes became white as light. And behold, there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him.

Talk about spooky, Jesus’ face was shining like the sun! Good old Peter speaks up again, you can imagine John and James talked about this before that he shouldn’t have talked. Peter has to say something :p

Matthew 17:4 (ESV) And Peter said to Jesus, “Lord, it is good that we are here. If you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah.”

Why would you put up tents for Moses, Elijah, and Jesus? Right at that point, there comes a cloud, Peter shut up! Don't ruin this moment!

Matthew 17:5-7 (ESV) He was still speaking when, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.” When the disciples heard this, they fell on their faces and were terrified. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, “Rise, and have no fear.”

Peter makes me feel so much better, he says something awesome and 5 seconds later he offers Moses a tent. Whohooo, aaaah, whooohooooo, aaaaaah.

# The crisis of this story

Bringing it back to where we started: depart from me! We see a man quite wrapped up in being awesome and finding value in himself. As soon as he screws up he creates space. I will take us now to the crisis of the story and what I am trying to explain.

Matthew 26:31-35 (ESV) Then Jesus said to them, “You will all fall away because of me this night. For it is written, ‘I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.’ But after I am raised up, I will go before you to Galilee.” Peter answered him, “Though they all fall away because of you, I will never fall away.” Jesus said to him, “Truly, I tell you, this very night, before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times.” Peter said to him, “Even if I must die with you, I **will** **not** **deny** you!” And **all** the **disciples** said the same.

Matthew 26:69-75 (ESV) Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. And a servant girl came up to him and said, “You also were with Jesus the Galilean.” But he denied it before them all, saying, “I do not know what you mean.” And when he went out to the entrance, another servant girl saw him, and she said to the bystanders, “This man was with Jesus of Nazareth.” And again he denied it with an oath: “I do not know the man.” After a little while the bystanders came up and said to Peter, “Certainly you too are one of them, for your accent betrays you.” Then he began to invoke a curse on himself and to swear, “I do not know the man.” And immediately the rooster crowed. And Peter remembered the saying of Jesus, “Before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times.” And he went out and wept bitterly.

It is so sad to see this happening. In Luke, it says that Jesus catches Peter's eyes and in that moment He has seen him denying Peter three times. This is where Peter fails on such an enormous level! We need to understand he was in the middle of the moment. They spent 3 years in Jesus school of supernatural ministry! Trained by him, ministered together, healed his mom. Watching Jesus, all the familiarity of being with Him. Peter says it to him, given up every single thing. He has given them everything! Identity, anointing and a moment before Peter says I will still stick by you and not deny you!

The tragedy for this moment is that this is pretty much the only time when Jesus needs something from him. Both in the garden and in the courtyard. That is so painful if Jesus asks you to pray and you fall asleep and if you deny Him. Jesus is taken to the cross and crucified. Try to grab a hold of what happened. You have spent 3 years with Him. He says He is the Son of God and you believe He will do great things. Now He will be killed on a cross like a criminal! That is so traumatic!

To make matters worse the 3 days when Jesus was dead the absolute despair, total shame was so much. The last time I saw him he saw me 3 times denying me! I wasn’t even there to help Him out, but denying Him! Now it is too late! Everything I have given up is in complete standstill! The worst part of it is that after all that training the one moment He needed me I felt short!

# Just being close to Jesus

Sometimes I think we know these stories so well, but don’t know all that is happening. I want you to show a quality of Peter and of the Father in these places.

Peter is famous for being bold and impulsive, but not famous for just being the one to want to be close to Jesus. This longing to be near to Jesus.

## Laying down my life

John 13:33-37 (ESV) Little children, yet a little while I am with you. You will seek me, and just as I said to the Jews, so now I also say to you, ‘Where I am going you cannot come.' A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this, all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

Simon Peter said to him, “Lord, where are you going?” Jesus answered him, “Where I am going you cannot follow me now, but you will follow afterward.” Peter said to him, “Lord, why can I not follow you now? I will lay down my life for you.”

So sweet that Peter just wanted to be close to Jesus! Drinking my blood and eating my flesh. I just want to be near to you. So often we make walking on the water about the walking on the water but not about getting near to Jesus. I just want to be near to You Jesus!

## Running to the tomb

John 20:2-4 (ESV) So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.” So Peter went out with the other disciple, and they were going toward the tomb. Both of them were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first.

John outran Peter I just want to tell you I am faster than Peter! :p

John 20:5-7 (ESV) And stooping to look in, he saw the linen cloths lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen cloths lying there, and the face cloth, which had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen cloths but folded up in a place by itself.

Peter is in the place of desperation. When he heard Jesus is not in the tomb he doesn't care what he has to do he just has to be near Jesus! Rushes to the tomb!

## Net full of fish!

John 21:4-7 (ESV) Just as day was breaking, Jesus stood on the shore; yet the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to them, “Children, do you have any fish?” They answered him, “No.” He said to them, “Cast the net on the right side of the boat, and you will find some.” So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in, because of the quantity of fish. That disciple whom Jesus loved, therefore, said to Peter, "It is the Lord!"

I know these Luke 4 shenanigans. This is the Lord!

John 21:6-7 (ESV) When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his outer garment, for he was stripped for work, and threw himself into the sea.

Peter is like: put on my clothes! Go swimming! Run to Jesus! Peter is probably still feeling heavy about this thing. This will be so awkward. But there is something about the quality of Jesus, running to the tomb, go in the water. So lovely about Peter!

# Quality of Peter

We’ve got the gorgeous Peter this bold, sweet character. But the thing that I want to make him famous for today is not caring about where Jesus go, but just being near Him. Even if that means putting on his clothes and swimming. I think it is stunning since Jesus is the perfect representation of the Father.

John 21:15 (ESV) When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” He said to him, “Feed my lambs.”

Peter probably has his head down at this point.

John 21:16-17 (ESV) He said to him a second time, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” He said to him, “Tend my sheep.” He said to him the third time, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?” Peter was grieved because he said to him the third time, “Do you love me?” and he said to him, “Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my sheep.

We're so familiar with this text but I think this is one of the most special texts about the love of the Father. 3 years of giving everything He has and getting them ready for release! Entrust and commission them to do what He just died for! But the last thing they did was that they all ran away! Jesus knows He is about to go and die and the 12 you spend years pouring into are arguing about who is the greatest!

The one thing you ask them to do: to pray and stay near Him. They all runaway and desert you in that one moment. Anyone else in the world would say this is awkward. But Jesus entrusts them with the keys to the universe! He doesn't just pick other people.

If I am in Peter’s shoes all I want is forgiveness. I am so sorry! I need forgiveness. JSSM stamp and straight out of that I completely blew it! I not only messed up but also denied that I knew you! In the greatest crisis and failure of his life Jesus looks at him and He says: feed my lambs! I wonder if Peter had a moment of literally feeding Jesus’ sheep. Jesus is saying that in your absolute betrayal I still want you!

I know that you're then even though you have a big mouth you finally are ready to receive what I have for you. Now you know that when you do great things it will not be what qualified you. But that I qualified you in your greatest weakness. I still believe in you to be the one to trust the greatest gift on earth with.

I want to tell a couple of things that connect me with this:

* I want you to see the quality of Peter: the desire for nearness
* See the opportunity of drawing near to a Father Who believes in you when you feel unworthy.

# Dreams and Hong Kong

Last time I shared my story about Hong Kong. But when I was here in Second year there was a dream on my heart of staying here. Having a dream is not about becoming an RGP but a longing to be an RGP. Around this time everyone was anxious and stressed about what was next. I was at home and processing. All was lining up for everyone and I was wondering where everything was going.

That is where I find myself. If this is You God I am in. In revival group we had someone coming in and talking about laying down our lives for God. She starts laying her hands on everyone in the group adopting the position and speaking to Me. I heard the words: Dave, be careful not to make your Isaac and idol. That is not fun!

At that time it was all about Abraham and saying will you choose the dream or Me? As soon as that thought came into my mind and the picture of Hong Kong came back and God said will you come back to Hong Kong with Me? Immediately I got cold, there was a wrestling. You can have your dream job or go back to Hong Kong with Me.

I said so many things, in a wrestle with Him. I have to make a choice. Do I want to be near Jesus or grab hold of this dream and make it an idol? I chose to rather be near Him, break down again and be a total failure than living in this dream. I have to be near You, that is the dream of my heart!

# Becoming an rap

I was in this big point being near to God and it can feel so familiar now, but it is a choice we have to make before we leave this environment. I think it is sweet that you would throw your clothes away but test your motives. I was all in, but God said yeah I get it you love Me

That is the nearness and believing in yourself that you need to have to leave this place! My wife went to India, Hong Kong hurt me but India I will go if the angel Gabriel comes. I know India is wonderful and I will probably be called there :p

The day before my wife leaves and Gabe calls him and says he wants to interview me. But she had to go without any contact. I said goodbye to her and my Tijuana trip was just a short trip. Everyone else went on to their own trips. This little voice in me said: don’t screw it up like you always do.

Kind of like Peter. Then I had a week without anything to do, and the total anxiety came back on me and I had an interview planned up. I am at home on my own just freaking out. Here you go again just when God lines everything up you're going to ruin it somehow.

I am praying in tongues, be real, declarations. It gets so bad that I seek people I know. I am clearly a mess, I am not ready for this dream to happen. So I am talking to Daniel and wanting him to hold me. He said I think I have to go and tell them I am not ready. Daniel said please don’t be stupid. Go to the interview and trust God.

But I am level 10 anxiety. That night I have an evening to myself. Fast and pray but God said go to Chipotle and go to the movies and see Argo. At that point I wanted to be spiritual I wanted to fast!

I was in a real dilemma about going to Chipotle for the Lord to obey Him. Because I think this is God I am looking in every trailer for what is the Lord. When I am anxious things can crush me, exorcism and I need to be healed. Argo starts and I give up striving to hear the Lord.

In a bad mood and anxious then completely unrelated this thought comes in on the left of me. You have lived off the belief of others your whole life and you need to believe in yourself. In the middle of the movie I am like: Eureka! I start to see how my whole life through people being close to me had no belief in their own. The problem was that my wife left without the ability to contact her on my own with a very small tank of self-belief.

I knew in that moment in the middle of Argo Oh my God! I have to choose to believe in myself in the midst of this Dave is going to blow it up moment. I have to choose to let You come close and believe in myself. I wrote on the mirror: I believe in you Dave!

I have to choose belief and the Father’s belief in me in the midst of this. Next day I went to the interview still feeling anxious and it went fine! Then I went to Tijuana and went to the trip and led people. I knew God believed in me and I believed in myself. I knew I was picked and chosen in my weakest moment.

# The redemption of Peter

We have a little bit of time left and I want to go to the last verse;

Acts 2:14 (ESV) But Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them:

Not long ago Peter utterly and completely failed Jesus. Out of that moment, the belief of Jesus and the coming close of Him, the believing in him the same voice Peter raises to proclaim revival and a new day in the Kingdom. The beginning of Jesus as the Holy Spirit.

I think being in Peter’s shoes is so moving. Me denying him, all the pain. Out of that Jesus promotes him in his low point and now Peter is the one that speaks up! The Holy Spirit came. The belief of God in that moment. Peter must have stood up and winked at Jesus and felt the nearness of the Holy Spirit in front of him.

From total failure to being promoted then, he felt untouchable! I love the transformation and redemption of Peter. The from being so low to ushering in the last days.

# Committing to Jesus

There are 2 things I want to do today. I don’t care whether you know exactly what you're doing, or not knowing. One thing we can all choose and commit to is to be near Jesus in the I don’t know, in the failure and in the moments you want to push Him away. In those moments put on your clothes, jump in the water and doggy paddle towards Him.

If you want to commit to being near Jesus or not whether your dreams come true or not. If you need to make a commitment to Jesus of being near Him make the commitment to be near Him no matter what!