

# Mid-Course Corrections - Peter

4-10-11

We have been talking for the last 4 weeks about Mid-Course Corrections and we looked at an episode in the life of Jonah where he there was a huge and obvious departure from the course God had laid out, and with that came a huge and obvious moment of transformation, in the form of a big fish. Some of us need big fish to get our attention.

However, for many of us the big dramatic departure from God's course is not the way it happened for us. It is different. There was no:

- Crime we committed
- Down and out life of drugs and alcohol
- No great departure from God's way

So what about us? Are we pretty much good to go and we just have to help these less fortunate souls get back on track?

Well, we are leaving Jonah behind in this second half of Mid-Course Corrections and we are moving to the New Testament and our first stop is going to be with Peter. You remember Peter right, he was the right hand man of Jesus. Yes we know he could be a hot-head but basically he hung with Jesus and then other than denying him at the end, he came back and made good by devoting his entire life to the cause of Christ.

This was a man who did not deviate much, he pretty much lived the straight and narrow.

- Peter is the man or woman who would stay late reset the chairs for the next church event.
- Peter is the person who would put in extra time making sure the church dinner was just right for people, or give extra to allow the youth to go on that special mission project together.
- Peter loves his wife, pays his taxes, plays with the dog and laughs at every joke.

So what's the problem? Leave the poor guy alone. OH, He comes to church nearly every Sunday too!

Peter is here in scripture to show us, where the mid-course corrections are needed in people who do not need to get thrown off a boat into the deep blue sea, and yet their struggle to really connect with God can get just as severely detoured as if they had gotten 100's of miles off course.

For these people like Peter, My Way vs. God's Way is just as distancing, less we think God didn't really notice. If we really believe in the verse from Romans 3:23 which says *"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God..."*

So for Peter and those of us who can relate to Peter...

‘My Way’ is the way of Control

The bottom line whether you can relate to Jonah or you can relate better to Peter, is Control. **I want to be in control.** And if people give me too much grief about that, I will continue to go to church and play by all the rules that keeps people off my back, but the bottom line is, **I want to be in control.**

Jesus knew that about Peter and he loved him. But it was time to call him out on it. The moment was set and it was perfect. The Upper room on the day of Passover.

The washing of feet was a simple act, it was no big deal. The roads were dusty and the act was not much more than the guest of the house taking a person’s coat and hanging it up for them, then pouring them a hot cup of coffee. However, the difference was it was the act of a servant, most people in authority would have had their servants do the washing of feet.

As Jesus went through the disciples, one at a time, building up in Peter was a moment of truth. A moment that was going to expose that ever so slight deviation off course, but as we will see would land him just as far away from God’s plans as Jonah ever was, if it didn’t get corrected.

Here is how the moment started

*<sup>6</sup> He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, “Lord, are you going to wash my feet?” Jesus replied, “You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand.” “No,” said Peter, “you shall never wash my feet.” John 13:6-8a*

In that moment Peter and Jesus had come face to face with the issue in Peter’s life that would cause him to never be able to enter the Kingdom of God.

(Story: Rock Climbing – Free Climbing)

Just like me on the face of that rock, I had been climbing along as easy as you please then I came to that place where I had no more moves left, I could either hang there or reach for the rope. Peter had come to the place in the climb with Jesus where he had no more moves left, if he let Jesus wash his feet it would have violated everything in him because though he was walking with Jesus, he was still living life based on Him taking care of everything. **Peter had to have it his way. He had to be in control and that is Pride**

Pride sounds like this:

I can take care of it \_\_\_\_\_ (myself)

If you want a job done right, do it \_\_\_\_\_ (yourself)

Ultimately God calls us to surrender our Pride to him otherwise he cannot really begin a relationship with us. Which leads us to the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of this equation, which is...

‘God’s Way’ is the way of Companionship

Jesus makes a bold statement to a man who had followed and supported his ministry the entire 3 years.

*Jesus answered, “Unless I wash you, you have no part with me.” John 6:8b*

This would be like a pastor walking up to the largest giver in the church and saying, “You are prideful and you need to change your thinking in this area.

But it really is even more than that. Jesus was placing an ultimatum in front of Peter.

The word here for ‘no part with me’ in Greek is the word ‘Meta’ which means Accompany or Companionship.

Now in order to color in the lines here. I want to name 3 different Greek words that capture the progressive nature of a relationship

- **Meta = companionship or accompany**
  - This is like a first date. When a young boy accompanies a girl to the prom. They are at the front end of the relationship. No real commitment has been made, but there is general interest.

The second word is...

- **Koinonia = a communion society, fellowship with or participation in anything**
  - This is like a dating relationship where commitments have been made; they are doing everything together, he calls her at all hours of the night. Dad wishes he would get off the phone and so on.

The third word is

- **Sun = being entrusted with anything**
  - This is marriage. This is a couple of people who are fully one in soul and spirit.

Jesus answers Peter with the word ‘Meta’. In other words, Jesus is saying as long as this pride keeps you from letting me even do the simplest of acts, like this Peter, then we cannot even have the most elementary of relationships.

Some of us have not experienced great deviations from the God course, but we also have never dealt with the Pride in our own lives, we have never really given up control, we have simply found a safe and comfortable place in a small suburban Midwest town, in a small suburban Midwest church, where no one ever really confronted us about the pride in our own lives.

The Pride is still there because you don't trust that God's way is better than your way. The only way to get rid of Pride, is to trust Christ, to let him wash that part of you that you have never, to this point trusted to anyone.

Today, tonight, right now...I want you to speak, verbal speak that area, out loud to God.

(Name some areas)

Then say "I trust you to take care of that area..."

And let the Mid-Course Correction begin

Let's Pray